**April 2,** **2025 -** [Teams Link](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MTY1NjQ0YzktNTljYS00OGYzLTliZTUtMzRlNDM4ZGE0MThj%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22eb14b046-24c4-4519-8f26-b89c2159828c%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%227f6ef213-e7f5-416e-ad30-08b96084c8e0%22%7d" \t "_blank)

Start time 12:05 PM End time 1:00 PM

***Meeting Summary - scribed by Derek Duran***

Date, Time & Location: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 – [[Microsoft Teams Link](https://www.gotomeet.me/MAPELocal601" \t "_blank)](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MTY1NjQ0YzktNTljYS00OGYzLTliZTUtMzRlNDM4ZGE0MThj%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22eb14b046-24c4-4519-8f26-b89c2159828c%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%227f6ef213-e7f5-416e-ad30-08b96084c8e0%22%7d)

Next Meeting Date, Time & Location: Noon-1:00 p.m., Wednesday, **May 7, 2025**, online via Microsoft Teams.

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| **Topic** | **Key Points Raised** | **Decision/Action** |
| Welcome – Lisa Becker, President | Welcome! Lisa gave a shout out to the Delegate Assembly and encouraged people to sign up to be alternate delegates. | No Action |
| Delegate Assembly Info – Lisa Becker, President | The Delegate Assembly is coming up and we are encouraging all members to consider running to be a 601 delegate. The resolutions were open, and you can suggest any changes or provide feedback. The DA is a great way to get involved in the union. | No Action |
| Membership Secretary Report – Christian Noyce | Skate Extravaganza this Saturday April 27th at Twin Cities Skaters Studio from 2:30 to 4:30pm.  3045 Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis, MN. | No Action |
| Treasury Report - Michael Zajicek | 601 had zero spending in February but will have some in March.  Contact Michael Zajicek ([Michael.Zajicek@state.mn.us](mailto:Michael.Zajicek@state.mn.us)) with questions. | No Action |
| Steward Report – Mary Heim | A motion was put forward to provide funds for a Stewards retreat. The motion passed.  This is a motion to allocate up to $7500 from reserve for Region 6 Steward Retreat.  This would cover 9 hours of lost time for the 17 Local 601 registered stewards at an approximated $45/hour. This is over the likely amount needed as some stewards may not attend and not all will need the full 9 hours of lost time. The average wage for MAPE is $43/hour, but there are many stewards with longevity at the state in Region 6. This also covers lunch and steward merchandise. While it is likely we will spend less, I want to budget cautiously. Statewide VP Halseth has requested each Region that we plan our own Regional Steward retreat.  Contact Mary Heim ([mary.heim@state.mn.us](mailto:mary.heim@state.mn.us)) or Catherine Okoneski ([catherine.okoneski@state.mn.us](mailto:catherine.okoneski@state.mn.us)) with questions. | Motion Passed |
| Regional Director Report – Nate Hierlmaier | Dear Local 601 Members,  I am unable to join the April 2 local meeting to provide my director’s update due to a family commitment but am glad to have Local President Becker share some of my views with you.  For many of us the past week and a half has been filled with disbelief, anxiety, and anger. Unilateral action from the Trump Administration cancelled $226 million appropriated by Congress and promised to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to last through next June.  Yesterday, (April 1) MDH was forced to lay off 104 MAPE-represented employees and placed 88 on risk of being displaced by those laid off. This will likely not be the last time our elected leaders at the federal level defund our jobs. This theft of public health funds to prevent future epidemics in Minnesota will likely be devoted to the largest tax cuts in history coming our way that mainly benefiting the ultra-wealthy.  The other similarly unilateral and abrupt change came in the form of the Walz return to office (RTO) mandate. This mandate sidesteps the current deliberative and reasonable process where we set our working conditions in a healthy and productive manner. Instead, we're being presented with something more restrictive than what we had pre-COVID. The mandate clearly states that telework is not a benefit or right. This is a huge step away from flexible work schedules we rely on for work-life balance and moves to explicit unchecked managerial control.  What's more, the RTO mandate is a costly burden on cash-strapped agencies like MDH that simply doesn't have the full funding to implement this change at a time when people will be laid off due to shortfalls.  At the same time, many of us are coming to the realization described on a sign in front of the Governor’s mansion last Saturday, “there are more of us than there are of Tim.” Our union is taking steps to protect workers and defend worker rights. There were over 500 of us protesting and I know there were probably thousands more that supported us but couldn’t make it.  This week MAPE leaders and staff were pushing MDH and MMB to offer early retirement incentives, promote favorable voluntary separation, and cover severance and time-limited health benefits for temporary classified employees (some of whom have worked for five years). This hasn’t happened yet, but we will keep fighting to protect more recent hires.  Now is the time to join us and take action. In the next weeks and months, you will be asked to push back against the message that it is ok to lay off thousands of state government workers to fuel tax cuts for the rich. You will be asked to stand up for the gains made in the control of your preferred schedule and place of work. You will be asked to show up at the protest, reach out to coworkers, and contact legislators, because our best hope is in each other.  A few notifications:  - Submit any proposed resolutions by April 15th for this year’s delegate assembly.  - Run or nominate someone for delegate assembly by May 5.  - The Board of Directors endorsed the MAPE Health Policy Lab recommendations on the March 21st monthly meeting. The first meeting of this group will be on April 10 at 12:30pm. Contact me (Nate Hierlmaier) for details.  In Solidarity, Nate  Contact Nate Hierlmaier ([nhierlmaier@mape.org](mailto:nhierlmaier@mape.org)) with questions. |  |
| Walz Executive Order and MDH Cuts – Lisa Becker / Frank Cave-LaCoste | MDH Cuts and Layoffs  Leadership and MAPE central were still working with the agency to figure out who exactly was being impacted. Additionally, it seemed like the MAPE contract was not being adhered to so MAPE was working to ensure that it was followed correctly. HR had many errors in the rollout of layoffs. Lisa advocated for members to reach out to their elective representatives. |  |
| Contract Action Teams Update – Rachel Wittkopp | The exchanging of proposals between MAPE and MMB to be done on April 15th.  Ongoing effort: Enlisting CATs  CATs can lead meetings, conduct townhalls, direct action plannings, conduct listening sessions, and recruit members.  Sign up to be a CAT today!  QR Code for Joining    Contact Rachel Wittkopp ([Rachel.wittkopp@state.mn.us](mailto:Rachel.wittkopp@state.mn.us)) with questions. | No Action |
| Business Agent Report – Frank Cave-LaCoste | There will be a Contract rally the morning of April 15th to cheer on our negotiators and put pressure on MMB. MAPE is also trying to get Governor Walz to walk back on his RTO order or give it more flexibility.  Contact Frank Cave-LaCoste ([fcavelacoste@mape.org](mailto:fcavelacoste@mape.org)) with questions. | No Action |
| Adjourn | Next Meeting: Noon-1:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 7, 2025, online via Microsoft Teams | No Action |

**Local 601 Leadership Team**

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| Position | Name | Email Contact |
| President | Lisa Becker | [lisa.becker@ssa.gov](mailto:lisa.becker@ssa.gov) |
| Vice President | Roberta Suski | [roberta.suski@state.mn.us](mailto:roberta.suski@state.mn.us) |
| Secretary | Derek Duran | [derek.duran@state.mn.us](mailto:derek.duran@state.mn.us) |
| Treasurer | Michael Zajicek | [michael.zajicek@state.mn.us](mailto:michael.zajicek@state.mn.us) |
| Membership Secretary | Sophie Nikitas  Christian Noyce | [sophie.nikitas@state.mn.us](mailto:sophie.nikitas@state.mn.us)  [Christian.noyce@state.mn.us](mailto:Christian.noyce@state.mn.us) |
| Regional Director | Nathan Hierlmaier | [nathan.hierlmaier@](mailto:nathan.hierlmaier@)mape.org |
| Regional Steward Directors | Mary Heim & Catherine Okoneski | [mary.heim@state.mn.us](mailto:mary.heim@state.mn.us) & [catherine.okoneski@state.mn.us](mailto:catherine.okoneski@state.mn.us) |
| Community Engagement Officer | Andrew Ulasich | [andrew.ulasich@state.mn.us](mailto:andrew.ulasich@state.mn.us) |
| Regional Negotiator | Jasen Bonnet | [jason.bonnett@state.mn.us](mailto:jason.bonnett@state.mn.us) |
| MAPE Assigned Negotiator | Kirsten Peterson | [Kirsten.peterson@state.mn.us](mailto:Kirsten.peterson@state.mn.us) |
| Local Contract Action Team Lead | Rachel Wittkopp | rachel.wittkopp@state.mn.us |
| MAPE Business Agent | Frank Cave-LaCoste | [fcavelacoste@mape.org](mailto:fcavelacoste@mape.org) |