# Region 6 Negotiator

**Tim Jenkins**

My name is Tim Jenkins. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the State of Minnesota over the past ten years as a MAPE member, at the Department of Agriculture and Department of Health in St. Paul. For 12 years prior, I also fought hard for change, as a union member, at the City of Minneapolis. In my college years, I did migrant farm work, one season organizing pickers in negotiations for fair bonus pay, on the blueberry barrens of Maine. Unions have been part of my life since I was little, and the desire to fight for the good cause is instilled in me.

MAPE has fought for me, and all of us, and I wanted to do more, so I became a steward, delegate, and member of the MDH meet and confer committee. Passion and commitment alone never cut it, effective negotiation requires understanding power, strategy, tactics and finesse, skills I’ve picked up over many years on both the labor and management sides of the table, in a variety of work environments.  Healthy, productive, strong negotiating is the heart of getting good things done for workers, agencies, and the State.

I am asking for your vote to be part of the negotiations team. I think we’ve all had enough of that sinking feeling that comes from constantly hearing things from the top like, “I want to thank you again for the tireless work you do every day to improve the lives of Minnesotans”, and then not getting cost of living increases that keep up with inflation! You can count on me standing for actions matching words, as a negotiations representative for Region 6.

**Jason Bonnett**

I proudly represented our region on the Negotiations team for the past two cycles. I seek your endorsement to continue serving. I enjoyed talking with fellow members and listening to your concerns. I sought unique solutions through the negotiations process and I am proud of our achievements together and hope to continue our partnership.

In 2018, I lead the charge for student loan reimbursement to be included in our contract and I will fight for its expansion.

In 2020, I drafted the proposal to increase vacation accrual for former employees who return to state service after 4 years. I ushered it through the process and I’m proud to say that it was the first proposal agreed upon by the State. This was a concern raised by members who had left the work force to raise children or care for elderly parents.

There is still much to accomplish.

The last negotiation cycle occurred under the specter of a projected budget shortfall due to the pandemic. Now that the state has a budget surplus of over $9 billion, it’s time that we receive a pay increase that reflects the work that we do. The administration has continually praised state workers for keeping things running during the pandemic, now it’s time to capitalize on that good will to get us the wages we have earned and deserve.

During the pandemic we learned that state employees can provide a quality work product while working remotely, we need to create a plan to get the administration to recognize flexible work arrangements as a worker’s right, not just a permissive request.

And there are always the perennial issues of insurance, family leave and worker rights.

I ask for your support so I can continue to fight for the benefits and wages that we deserve!