**Local 1002**

**Delegate Candidates**

**Elizabeth Stephens**

After 16 years of dedicated state service, and at least 10 plus years as a member of MAPE, it would be an ultimate pleasure to serve again as a MAPE Delegate Representative for local 1002 at our annual Delegate Assembly on Saturday, September 18, 2021.

As I am one of many dynamic voices at Local 1002 that continuously supports the priorities of our elected leaders and the MAPE organization in their duty to achieve justice, fairness and equity through membership provisions for the employed workers of this great state of MN.

MAPE as a whole and all the individual representatives need to pledge to be diligent, forthright and transparent in our movement, and all calls to action must echo the passion and mission of the collective voices of our members, to achieve what is beneficial for all!

I want to stand for YOU! I will be that influential voice and force to get the things YOU want done, DONE!

Elizabeth Stephens

**Jon VanOeveren**

Hi! I’m Jon VanOeveren and I love state employees and the work we do everyday. We are the backbone of Minnesota. I believe unions are more than just contract negotiators. We are a family that supports each other and professional labor values. As a delegate, I will actively support greater equity and democracy in the workplace. I will propose and support initiatives that give unions a greater voice in department leadership and policy implementation. I will listen to our voices at MDE and do my best to represent them as a member of our delegation. We spend most of our life at work. We deserve more of a say in how it runs. I have worked at MDE for nearly eight years, four as a MAPE member.

**Leah Delia Larson**

My name is Leah Delia Larson. I work for the Department of Education in Roseville. I have been a state employee for seven years, working at the Perpich Center for Arts Education before coming to MDE. I have been a MAPE member for the past four years and have been active in supplemental bargaining for both this and the last contract. I enjoy the union as a chance to connect with colleagues in different divisions around shared beliefs to make the state a better and more diverse workplace. I believe that unions are a powerful force for social change and a way for us to come together to make our voices heard by management and lobby for change.

**Moi Boudoir**

My name is Moi Boudoir. I work for the Minnesota Department of Education in Roseville, MN. I am the Neglected Delinquent Foster Care Specialist Coordinator, I have worked at MDE for 8 months, and I have been a MAPE member since September 2020. I am interested in running for Political Counseling to find common causes across other statewide unions to input Equity Opportunity and Inclusion across the state unions. I believe in advocating for BIPOC and other members from all ethnic backgrounds. MAPE union members deserve to have their voices heard on topics affecting their work, home, and communities they serve. I believe in collaborating across many different agencies to bring our issues to the forefront to bring change in the systems that have a history of marginalizing people who deserve the same chances as everyone else. My background is in Social Work (Child Welfare), and if I am elected, I will work my hardest to bring my perspective, knowledge, and experiences to the council to influence all MAPE members to be the very best they can be. I will intentionally work through the lens of Equity Opportunity and Inclusive and listen to all MAPE members to let them know I heard them, and I plan to act on what I have heard. A strong Union can accomplish the goals set before them with humility and grace for all members.

**Wai Wong-Lai**

Hello, my name is Wai Wong-Lai and I work for the Department of Education in Roseville. I have been a state employee for eight and a half years and a MAPE member since 2016. My involvement with MAPE has included serving as an Assembly delegate and alternate in the past two years, and actively participating in my local’s Communication Action Team and the supplemental bargaining process.

I am most interested in connecting local members to MAPE’s statewide platform and policymaking. No member should feel disconnected or mystified about the policies, rules, and organizing principles of our union and I believe improvements can be made in communication and reporting on the part of MAPE leadership. If I am re-elected as a delegate, I would also work to ensure equitable representation exists in our state’s lawmaking chambers so the diverse voices of our members can be heard and amplified during contract negotiations, and our rights and priorities are championed and advanced at all times.

As concerned citizens, we have learned much about the absence of equality and justice in our fractured nation over the past year. There is much work to do to close the opportunity gaps experienced by the powerless and disenfranchised in all facets of society. To that end, I am also staying involved in the fight to change the outdated culture and ingrained biases at my own agency. The movement for true equity and justice is grand in scale and ambitious, and it affects communities everywhere. I believe, however, that progress starts at “home”. It takes many to make a more perfect union, starting with what each one of us CAN influence. I will continue to work with my colleagues at MAPE to challenge, instigate, make good trouble, and foster change in our capacity as public servants.