## Local 1002 Delegates

**Wai Wong-Lai**

Hello, my name is Wai Wong-Lai and I work for the Minnesota Department of Education in Roseville. I have been a state employee for nine and a half years and a MAPE member since 2016. My involvement with MAPE has included serving as a State Assembly delegate and alternate in the past three years, and 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. Every MAPE member should be informed and knowledgeable about the policies, rules, organizing principles, and financial health of our union, and I believe improvements must be made in communicating and reporting this information to the general membership. If I am re-elected as a delegate, I will work to provide regular updates regarding MAPE governance, or help build the necessary infrastructure whereby such information is easily accessed and obtained.

As concerned citizens, we continue to learn so much about the struggle for equality and justice in our fractured nation. There is much work to do to close the opportunity gaps experienced by those who are perpetually disenfranchised in all facets of society. I will work persistently to improve MAPE’s ability and capacity to influence hiring practices and negotiate meaningful benefits at all agencies. I will also stay involved in the hard work to change the ingrained cultural biases at my own agency so more advancement opportunities are made available to employees of color.

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 Central and Local 1002 to challenge, instigate, make good trouble, and foster change in our role as public servants.

**Jeff Plaman**

 I am running to represent MAPE 1002 at delegate assembly. I am the Online and Digital Learning Specialist in the Career and College Success Division where I’ve worked since 2016. I have served as the Membership Secretary for our local and have keen interest in supporting our members diverse perspectives, making sure all voices are heard. If elected, I will represent you and raise the issues that are important to the members while seeking consensus for the good of our entire union and the workers it represents.

**Deb Rose**

I’ve been a MAPE Region 10 member for over 15 years. At Education, I’m a grants coordinator, and am proud to be a part of the agency infrastructure that makes sure we get education funding out the door to schools, communities, children and families. My public service keeps Minnesota strong, and so does yours!

I’m a Local 1002 steward and a past vice president. As a member of the Education Meet and Confer team for four years and counting, I’ve fought for equitable telework procedures, increased access to professional development opportunities, the One MDE diversity, equity, and inclusion council, and improved communication and appreciation throughout the pandemic.

It’s been inspiring to watch our union grow more powerful over the last several years and I want to keep this momentum moving forward. We’ve worked hard to find ways to recruit and retain new talent to State service and new member-leaders to MAPE. I value these efforts and have seen that workers with new and diverse perspectives keep the State and our union strong. As a Delegate, I will support resolutions and budget efforts that boost member-engagement and leadership and build grassroots movements to lift working conditions and compensation for all without leaving long-term employees - including MAPE members who walked the picket lines in 2001 - “stuck at the top.”

If I am elected I will work to gather Local 1002 member’s ideas, hopes, needs, and concerns and bring them forward to the MAPE Delegate Assembly. As we shape the future of MAPE, I want to help bring the stories of my 1002 MAPE siblings to the conversation and decisions of the Delegate Assembly. I would be honored to have your vote to attend the 2022 Delegate Assembly as a local 1002 delegate.

**Axelina Swenson**

My name is Axelina Swenson, and I am a dedicated MAPE member who has served in many roles at MAPE. In providing leadership, I have always strived for transparency, accountability and understanding in my approach. My personal philosophy is that kindness and integrity are key components to competent leadership, and that even if viewpoints differ, each is to be respected and considered. Through roles as Region 7 Director, Steward, Region 7 Negotiations rep, Delegate Assemble Delegate since 2018 and MNIT/MAPE Meet and Confer Committee, I have come to recognize the needs and challenges our organization faces, and the modernization we need to undertake to create the equitable and transparent organization MAPE can be.

This upcoming DA, there will be proposals via the MAPE strategic plan to potentially change the current MAPE structure, and also significantly impact our financials through potential dues changes. MAPE is also encountering significant challenges as we face inflation, and we will need to be creative and innovative in our approach as we grow. With nearly 8 years in Accounting roles at the state, I have every year spent a good deal if time for delegate assembly prep by reviewing proposals, making amendments and analyzing the MAPE budget in detail to ensure that the income MAPE receives is being used in a responsible and intentional way. In my former region as the Director, we held resolution specific meetings to talk about what is being proposed in plain language, so we could gauge how our membership felt we should vote.   Ultimately, it will be my role at DA to understand the direction that the 1002 membership wishes for the resolutions and use that as my guide during the process.

**Anna Turosak**

My name is Anna Turosak and I work as an Evaluator for the Department of Education in Minneapolis. I’ve been employed by the state for just over a year and have been a MAPE since starting this position. I’m trained as a Community Psychologist and through my work do my best to learn from the lived experiences and expertise of the communities I work with. As a result of this, I strongly believe in the importance of collaborative, grassroots solutions and would prioritize this approach as a MAPE Delegate to amplify traditionally underrepresented voices and ensure equitable access to services and resources for union members. The difficulties and stress of the pandemic have reminded all of us of the importance of having a safe and supportive place of work that prioritizes the wellbeing of its employees and if appointed to this role, I would focus on engaging with and learning from union members to find solutions that continue to promote the quality of life of state employees.