# Region 14 Negotiator

**Karin Harris**

I have worked for the Minnesota Department of Revenue for 28 years out of the Duluth office. Recently our office was closed and we were part of an MMB pilot program. It was a very difficult closing, many promises were made and not kept. I want to work for more equitable language for all Minnesota state employees as we transition to an increasingly changing work force.

**Ariel Johnson**

It is a great honor to be nominated as a Region 14 Negotiator and to have the opportunity to make Region 14’s Minnesota Association of Professional Employees voices heard. I became a steward in July of 2020 after seeing a need for more stewards during COVID. The pandemic made me realize how important it was to have representation from the union to support employees and their families. In April of 2021, I became Membership Secretary for Local 1402. As we worked toward a new normal with the pandemic, I wanted to support people in reconnecting and learning more about MAPE. At the same time, I became one of three Co-Chief Stewards for Region 14. I have enjoyed collaborating with the other Co-Chiefs as we strengthen our team of stewards and continue to be a resource for MAPE employees. I’ve found great fulfillment in working with people throughout our region when they have questions or are facing issues in the workplace. Being able to help MAPE employees find their voice in a situation with management or to be a resource in their time of need has made being a steward so rewarding. I chose to step down from my role as Membership Secretary for Local 1402 to focus on being a steward so I can help MAPE employees in times when they need it the most. As a Negotiator, I want to connect MAPE employees in Region 14 to hear what concerns they have, how we can create safer and better supported workplaces, what their needs are to be efficient State workers, and how we can support MAPE employees to make a stronger workforce in Minnesota.