**Local 1601**

**Vice President Candidates**

**Christina Sundgaard**

My name is Christina Sundgaard and I have been an employee of the state of Minnesota, Pollution Control Agency in Baxter, since 2009 (12 years) and in my current role as a Contract Specialist since 2014 (MAPE member for 7 years, previously an AFSCME member). I took steward training with MAPE in October 2014 and have since assisted in a variety of investigations with our members. I am driven to help members clarify contract language anytime there is a question because I feel the better we all understand our contract language we have less unnecessary work frustrations as a result. Addressing questions and understanding contract related questions helps us find areas of potential language improvement as well. Knowing the resources, who to reach out to, and how to gain additional clarification is key. I have served as a liaison between our members and MAPE central office in an effort to increase overall employee satisfaction but also bring issues forward before they become big problems. In addition, I have brought concerns forward on behalf of our members to our MPCA meet and confer team to resolve language that lacked clarification seeing it through to a successful outcome. I will continue to use my knowledge of the different avenues and resources available to effectively address member concerns. If re-elected as Local 1601 Vice President my goal is to continue to drive our local forward in being member-centric, inclusive, and approachable. I feel our key to success lies within a cohesive and communicative leadership team where we support each other and I feel fortunate to be a part of this team since 2018.

**Suzie Lundsten**

Hello! My name is Suzie Lundsten. I work for Minnesota State Community and Technical College on the Wadena campus as an Academic Advisor and the Director of Student Life. I have been a state employee for nine years and a MAPE member for the same. For five years prior to that, I worked at the University of Minnesota as a Professional and Administrative employee. I am a MAPE steward, having attended both beginning and advanced steward training. I also serve on both my institution and the Statewide Minnesota State Meet and Confer team. I am passionate about employee rights and ensuring fair and equitable work conditions for Minnesota professional employees. I’m currently working on initiatives related to increasing and retaining unclassified employee rights and am about to take part in my first round of supplemental bargaining for Minnesota State in the MAPE contract.

I feel strongly that educating MAPE members about their rights is vital to our goal of strengthening our voice across Minnesota. My personal experience with MAPE have empowered me to effect meaningful change for Minnesota professional employees. It has given me confidence and the ability to demonstrate my leadership skills. I am excited about the opportunity to serve as the local Vice-President and utilize my skills and abilities to make a difference for local 1601 members! We are a large local and it takes great leaders to bring our members together. The more members we have, the stronger our voice will be!