**Local 2001 - Delegate Candidates**

**Cathy Finken**

Hello,

My name is Cathy Finken, and I’m running for the position of Region 20 Delegate to the annual Delegate Assembly, the highest governing body of MAPE. Decisions are made during this convention that shape our union for the upcoming year.

A little about myself: I’m a third-generation union member, and believe in the power of a union. I believe we are only as strong as our weakest member. I’ve been living in Rochester since 1999 and have been working for the Dept. of Employment and Economic Development as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. I have been an active member of MAPE for 26 of those years. My very first position was as a local treasurer when I lived in Brainerd. Since then, I have served our Union in a variety of roles: as Statewide First and Second Vice President, Statewide Trustee, Delegate, Local 2001 Chief Steward, President, Vice President, and am currently serving as our local’s Negotiations Representative.

I’m asking for your vote and support to become a delegate and attend the 2021 Delegate Assembly this fall. Thank you!

Cathy Finken, Region 20

**John Ferrara**

My name is John Ferrara. I work for Winona State University as a Computer Systems Administrator, in Rochester, MN. I have been a MAPE officer since 2013, including local President, Regional Director, and Vice-Chair of the Statewide Political Council. I have been to DA every year since 2013. I have a strong understanding of the MAPE governing documents and parliamentary procedure. I have sponsored and co-sponsored resolutions that have been passed by DA. If elected, I will use that knowledge to ensure the needs of local 2001 are properly represented at Delegate Assembly.

**Kay Pedretti**

My name is Kay Pedretti and I have worked at Winona State University for the past 21 years in the Biology Department. I currently serve as the Chief Steward in Region 20 and the Secretary for Local 2001. I also sit on the MN State Meet and Confer team. I have held many other roles over my time in MAPE, but my favorite role by far is Delegate. MAPE delegates from all over the state come together and refine the policies and by-laws of the union at least once per year. It is a great and informative meeting and I would love to represent our corner of Southeast MN here. Please vote for me to represent all of us at the 2021 MAPE Delegate Assembly.

**Kristen Gallo**

My name is Kristen Gallo and I work for the Department of Corrections in Red Wing. I have been a State employee almost 21 years and a MAPE member for 13 years. I serve our Local as Membership Secretary and a Steward. I have attended Delegate Assembly for the past five years. I believe it is important that our Local’s ideas are represented in MAPE. If I am elected, I will work to ensure that our member’s voices are heard.

**Mel Markert**

My name is Mel Markert. I work for MPCA in Rochester. I began working in state service as an intern with MPCA in 2009 and worked up to a permanent position in 2012. I'm involved as a steward and a Meet and Confer team member with MPCA. During the last year MAPE members have shown their incredible ability to adapt and keep the state running. I'm proud to count myself as part of this dedicated and vital group. If elected I will do all I can to support and fairly represent our members.

**Sophia Walsh**

Hi fellow MAPE Member! My name is Sophia Walsh and I work for the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) as a Communicator and Evaluator for the Food, Pools, and Lodging Service Section out of the Rochester District Office. I have been a MAPE member for the entire three-year duration of employment with the state. I am a member of the MDH Statewide Meet and Confer Team. While on the team I have worked with MAPE represented staff, management, and human resources to successfully resolve MAPE represented staff concerns.

If elected to this position, I will continue to listen to members’ voices and elevate their concerns to the appropriate parties. I will work hard to understand members primary concerns and how they would like them addressed at delegate assembly. My primary focus at delegate assembly will be to improve racial equity and accessibility for our members and future members.

**Steven Speltz**

Hello, my name is Steven Speltz. I work for the Pollution Control Agency in Rochester. A state employee for 7 years, a MAPE member for 6 years and I am currently serving as the President of Local 2001. Delegate assembly is a way for us to propose and discuss changes to the Union functions and works to serve all members. I see this as a great opportunity to engage with and serve my fellow members. If elected, I will work to hear the stories of my fellow members and bring those stories to the conversation and decisions of the delegate assembly.