# Local 2101 Meeting Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2021

Via WebEx

**Welcome – Liz Pearson, President**

* + Chris Cachuela has officially retired; her last day was last week. She was a long-time fabulous asset to DHS and to MAPE. She was the Head Steward for a long time and she passed the torch to Dylan Adams a few months back so she could finish out her time at DHS without that responsibility. Her hard work is still appreciated and she will be missed! A giant has left the building ☺
  + We thought the official transfer of Brown and Bigelow folks to this local was happening June 1, but we still haven’t gotten confirmation of that. As soon as we have more information we’ll send it out. In the meantime, welcome to any Brown and Bigelow folks who are here!
  + We will be discussing the situation with the state budget and possible shutdown at the next MAPE 101, which is happening Tuesday, June 22, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. We will also be talking about what’s happening right now with contract negotiations.

**Lunch Donation – Liz Pearson**

* We received 103 responses for the June lunch donation survey, and the winners are Gender Justice and Happy Tails Rescue. We will split the $500 equally between the two organizations. Thank you everyone for taking the time to participate in our survey.
  + [Gender Justice](https://www.genderjustice.us/) envisions a world where everyone can thrive regardless of their gender, gender expression, or sexual orientation. Gender Justice works to ensure that people of all genders have a meaningful right to bodily autonomy, safety, health, and opportunity.
  + [Happy Tails Rescue](https://www.tailsrescue.org/) is a non-profit organization dedicated to rescuing homeless and abandoned animals. Happy Tails works with committed volunteers, foster homes, local veterinarians, trainers and boarding facilities to rescue dogs and cats and provide them with loving temporary care until a well-matched, carefully screened forever home can be found.

**Meeting agenda – via WebEx poll**

* Approved

**Special Guest –** [**Peter Rachleff**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Rachleff)**, Labor historian and Co-Executive Director of the East Side Freedom Library**

* Peter spoke about labor history in Minnesota with a focus on solidarity, including the [Minneapolis Teamsters’ strike](https://teamster.org/about/teamster-history/the-minneapolis-strike/) of 1934.
* He talked about the importance of the work of public employees, not only defending our contract and livelihood, but also defending the services we provide to all of Minnesota.
* One way we can advocate for the services we provide to all Minnesotans is to strengthen our partnerships with community organizations who are helping to carry out the work of DHS and ask them to publicly support us.
* We are part of a movement that is bigger than us!

**Election Updates – Liz Pearson**

* Matt Berg is our new Vice President, and Vanessa Vogl is our new Regional Director. Congratulations! Both are excited to start working in their new roles.
* A big huge THANK YOU to Sylvia Kidder who is stepping down from the Treasurer role, and to Sarah Sinderbrand, who is the outgoing Regional Director. We are so appreciative for all the great work both of you have done in these roles!
* With these changes, we are now looking for people to serve as Treasurer and Secretary for Local 2101! These are great leadership opportunities and we want YOU to step up!
* Action: Be the next Secretary or Treasurer of Local 2101!
* Contact: Liz ([elizabeth.pearson@state.mn.us](mailto:elizabeth.pearson@state.mn.us)) or any of the other officers.

**Business Agent Update – Liz Pearson**

* David Hearth is our Enforcement Business Agent. David works closely with the stewards on contract-enforcement related issues.
* Debbie Prokopf has been our Organizing Business Agent for the last 5 years, supporting us on organizing efforts and actions.
* There’s been some movement at MAPE, and Debbie will no longer be the Organizing Business Agent for Local 2101. We will miss you, Debbie! THANK YOU for all the work you’ve done to support membership in our local!
* Caitlin Reid is our new OBA- Welcome, Caitlin! She has been working with other DHS locals and helping with DHS Meet & Confer, so she’s very familiar with DHS. We are excited for the work that lies ahead with you, Caitlin!

**Stewards** **– Liz Pearson on behalf of Dylan Adams**

* If you are having any disciplinary meetings or under investigation, please reach out to a steward- YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO A STEWARD! You have a right to the presence of a steward at any such meeting or proceeding.
* Action: Become a steward! Attend the July 9 Basic Steward training. More info and registration for the training is here: <https://mape.org/events/basic-steward-training-apr-2021>.
* Contact: Dylan Adams ([dylan.adams@state.mn.us](mailto:dylan.adams@state.mn.us)) or any other steward or local officer.

**Update from our Negotiations Representative – Liz Pearson on behalf of Christine Retkwa**

* Management has made only one offer to accept one minor portion in one proposal and countered moderately on one other proposal- MAPE has not yet accepted these, as we need to weigh these in with our overall goals. Management has otherwise only agreed to drop many proposals if we drop ours. This is not progress for our members on the teleworking flexibility and equity that the Governor has stated he values! We will continue to create combinations of proposal that create progress and remove the negative impacts of management’s proposals.
* As you probably know, there is no budget yet to work with. A budget is essential for determining cost of living increase and healthcare proposals. The “push” week of June 14 (expected end to negotiations) has now been moved to the week of July 19. We will be in negotiations for one and a half days on June 16 and 17 and then nothing scheduled (as of now) for both sides together until July 19.
* At the MAPE 101 this month we will be having a conversation about negotiations and the letters we got from MMB about a possible state shutdown.
* We won’t know anything until special session starts- there’s really no way to predict a shutdown. Liz’s gut says no, but anything is possible.
* Action: Attend the next MAPE 101 on Tuesday, June 22, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., to learn more about how contract negotiations are going, and about where things are at with the state budget!
* Contact: Email Liz Pearson ([elizabeth.pearson@state.mn.us](mailto:elizabeth.pearson@state.mn.us)) for the MAPE 101 meeting invite and Webex info.

**Update from our Statewide Organizing Council – Lauren Siegel**

* The Statewide Organizing Council is busy! We are starting a book club soon and Lauren will provide more info- hoping to mobilize folks like Peter talked about and do some consciousness raising!
* Working on a collaboration of membership secretaries to provide them with support in their work.
* MAPE has plans in the works for in-person outreach events for organizing- if people are looking for ways to connect with MAPE employees who aren’t yet members, we are working on recruiting those who signed the negotiations petition but aren’t yet members. Stay tuned for more info, or reach out to Lauren to get involved.
* Action: Get involved in membership recruitment with the Organizing Council!
* Contact: Lauren Siegel ([lauren.siegel@state.mn.us](mailto:lauren.siegel@state.mn.us))

**Member Concerns and Other Announcements – Liz Pearson**

* Local 2101 membership rate is 81%, which is great but can always be better! Please join if you haven’t yet: <https://mape.org/join-mape>. $21/paycheck is the dues amount.
* You must also be a member to vote on the contract!
* Shutdown questions: Employees are not paid during a shutdown, and they are not paid back. Vacation requests are denied during a shutdown. Make sure you add your personal email address to [MAPE My Portal](https://portal.mape.org/Login.aspx) so that you get communications from MAPE during the shutdown. We will be very clear with our communications and helping people to the best of our ability, providing resources, if there is a shutdown. We will help each other!

**Gift card winners!**

* At our monthly meetings we draw four names for $20 gift cards
* May’s meeting: April Beachem, Bethany Brickle, Paige Harker, Nancy Schultz
* This month’s meeting: Tim Dean, Dawn Holmen, Jonathan Monsma, Jennifer Walsh

## Upcoming meetings

* Next Officers’ meeting: Thursday, June 17, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., via WebEx. Let Liz Pearson know if you would like the invite.
* Next General Meeting: Tuesday, July 13, 2021, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., via WebEx. Stay tuned for the invite!