# Local 2101 Meeting Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2020

Via WebEx

**Welcome – Liz Pearson, President**

* We’ve been working from home since March! Thank you for continuing to join us at these virtual meetings.
* Let Liz (elizabeth.pearson@state.mn.us) or Alexis (alexis.stafford@state.mn.us) know if there are new people on your team or in your area who don’t know about MAPE or these meetings
* Use the All-Panelists option in the chat.
* Happy Bastille Day! Revolution is happening.

**Approval of meeting minutes and agenda**

* Last Month’s [Meeting Minutes](file:///X%3A%5CMAPE%5CLocal_2101%5CCommon%5CMonthly%20Business%20Meetings%5C2020%5CJune%5C20200609MAPEMinutes.docx) – Approved
* Meeting [Agenda](file:///X%3A%5CMAPE%5CLocal_2101%5CCommon%5CMonthly%20Business%20Meetings%5C2020%5CJuly%5CJuly20202101Agenda.docx) – Approved

**Lunch Donation – Sylvia Kidder**

* 184 people voted, 181 were members
* Lake Street Recovery Fund was the winner and will receive $500
	+ [Lake Street Recovery Fund](https://www.visitlakestreet.com/we-love-lake-street) was started by the Lake Street Council to help rebuild Lake Street, providing direct support to small businesses and nonprofits to help them rebuild their storefronts, reopen their businesses and serve our neighborhoods.

**MAPE Stewards and Stories – Chris Cachuela, Chief Steward**

* Our local is looking for new stewards, as some have retired and are leaving.
* Being a steward is: being counselor to your coworkers by listening to people’s issues and problems, working with supervisors to solve problems, and addressing contract issues.
* Right now especially there is a focus on working with supervisors to address technology issues, EAP, and racism. Can’t discuss specifics of cases publicly, but if you want help solving problems and issues, become a steward!
* Stewards take the Basic Training class through MAPE Central, and meet once a month, every 3rd Wednesday.
* Action: Become a steward! Sign up for the Basic Training class on the MAPE website: <https://mape.org/resources/training/classes>. Our local’s Enforcement Business Agent, David Heath, teaches the class. You can also take the training without becoming a steward.
* Contact: Chris Cachuela (chris.cachuela@state.mn.us) or any of the other stewards
* The more stewards we can get the better!

**DHS-MAPE Mentorship Program –Abbie Franklin**

* Abbie has been at DHS for 13.5 months, and it wasn’t the best first year experience. She knows her situation is not unique and does not want others to experience what she went through. This DHS-MAPE mentorship/navigator/connections-building initiative is intended to address this issue by linking people together to have a successful career at DHS.
* An opportunity for anyone in a MAPE represented position to connect with another employee. Focus is on employees new to DHS, the state, their job, but can be for established employees as well- especially moving from Lafayette to Andersen.
* Open to all MAPE represented employees, regardless of membership status, as a way to learn more about DHS and MAPE
* This is different from the DHS mentorship program and L4 mentorship program- this would be open to anyone, with a focus on new employees
* Hope to roll out the program sometime this fall
* There will be a MAPE focus to this, but it won’t be the only focus.
* Will recruit participants during the First 30 Days initiative which involves MAPE reaching out to new employees when they come on board, and at the MAPE discussion at NEO, and in any onboarding materials for new employees
* Will be creating a survey of MAPE members to see what they need/want
* Learn how to be a successful employee at DHS and make connections with each other. Break down DHS silos, work across the entire agency
* Currently open to Local 2101 only but will consider opening to all
* Next steps: Abbie, Ashley Warling-Spiegel, Alexis Stafford, and Lauren Siegel are the planning committee for this project, and are looking for more members to join the planning committee
* Action: Join the planning committee for this project!
* Contact: Abbie Franklin (abigail.franklin@state.mn.us), Ashley Warling-Spiegel (ashley.a.warling-spiegel@state.mn.us), Alexis Stafford (alexis.stafford@state.mn.us), and Lauren Siegel (lauren.siegel@state.mn.us)

**Current candidate for state office – Kim Hicks**

* Kim works at DHS and is the policy person for EIDBI, which is a benefit for people with autism
* Kim [shared a PowerPoint](file:///X%3A%5CMAPE%5CLocal_2101%5CCommon%5CMonthly%20Business%20Meetings%5C2020%5CJuly%5CMAPE%20presenation.pptx) about her experience so far.
* Kim is married, has five kids, works full time, there’s a pandemic, but she’s still running. You too can run for office!
* Have to go through MMB but MAPE Central will help you
* People who understand the system should run for office!
* Kim encourages people to get involved, and she is available if anyone is interested in running for office and wants to talk more about it: kimberly.hicks@state.mn.us
* Kim talked to Sarah at the beginning and Sarah was very helpful
* Why did she decide to run?
	+ Two years ago Kim was at a disability forum. The current state representative was on the panel and he made a lot of statements that were false. She could tell that had done no research even though he had been given the questions before the forum. She invited the representative over for dinner. He and his wife came over but she felt he didn’t want to learn.
	+ Kim researched how the current representative (and now opponent) voted, what bills he introduced. He ran minimally if at all opposed for 4 terms. This time no DFLer was running for the seat so she decided someone needed to step up.
* Anne Claflin who works for the PCA shared a similar story about why she decided to run for office- she wanted to bring a government and science background to the legislature. And she won! We hope the same for Kim.

**Divestment and our pension funds – Katherine DuGarm (DHS) and Emily Moore (PCA-retired)**

* Katherine has been at DHS for a year working with the Senior Linkage Line. She [shared a PowerPoint](file:///X%3A%5CMAPE%5CLocal_2101%5CCommon%5CMonthly%20Business%20Meetings%5C2020%5CJuly%5CMAPE%20Divest%20MN%20Presentation.pptx) about divesting our pension funds from fossil fuel.
* Wants to make sure that our pension investments perform well and are environmentally responsible
* Emily worked at PCA for 22 years, and is currently a grateful pension holder. She is concerned about our pension’s investments in fossil fuels, both for the future of our planet and the stability of our pension. She has been doing this divestment work for 5 years
* Divestment basically means- stop investing in business(es). Example- there was activity in 1980s when companies divested in South Africa, which helped to bring about change in their government
* Oil industries profits have been declining for years. With COVID19 and fewer driving, going down even more. Therefore the value of our pension is going down.
* Fossil fuel companies are grossly overvalued- by law they have to keep reserves in the ground, but they base their value on burning all of it.
* Delegate Assemblies in 2016 and 2017 passed resolutions related to divestment.
* Unfortunately the deadline for resolutions this year has passed and only the Board of Directors can introduce new proposals. We can still bring this issue up to the Board, and we could also bring something up at Delegate Assembly this year, even without an official proposal
* Erin Leonard is the Executive Director of the Minnesota State Retirement System, and is also on the Advisory Council of the State Board of Investment. SBI board members: Governor Tim Walz, Auditor Julie Blaha, Attorney General Keith Ellison, Secretary of State Steve Simon
* Some progress has been made: SBI made recommendation at May 2020 meeting to divest from thermal coal
* Action: Contact MAPE reps on MSRS Board. Attend the next SBI meeting on August 26 at 10 a.m. Sign the petition as an individual at [divestinvestmn.org](https://www.divestinvestmn.org/). Reach out to Katherine if you have questions or ideas.
* Contact: MSRS Board: <https://www.msrs.state.mn.us/board-of-directors>. Katherine: katherine.dugarm@state.mn.us.
* At our August meeting we will vote as to whether we want to sign the petition as a local
* You can currently choose to invest in green options for our Health Savings Account- reach out to Liz (elizabeth.pearson@state.mn.us) for more information about that.

**Statewide Political Council update – Nicole Juan**

* Primary is coming up August 11
* Voting by mail is open- can request to vote by mail for primaries and general election
* Consider working as an election judge this year! Both Liz and Dylan have been election judges and have found it to be a very rewarding experience.
* Whitney Terrill was just recently appointed to the Political Council- congratulations, Whitney!
* Political Action Committee update: the PAC recently met to endorse candidates, and Kim Hicks was endorsed! You can view the list of endorsed candidates here: <https://mape.org/2020-mape-pac-legislative-endorsements>
* You can learn more about the PAC, the endorsement process, and volunteer opportunities here: <https://mape.org/committees/mape-pac>
* Action: Volunteer to get MAPE-endorsed candidates elected! Virtual phone/text banks, contactless lit drops.
* Contact: Nicole (njuan@mape.org)

**Statewide Organizing Council update – Lauren Siegel**

* Equity/Diversity subgroup update: the Organizing Council received 37 applications and is currently reviewing them. If you have continued interest please reach out to Lauren even if you didn’t apply- this is going to be more of a movement than a committee!
* Action: Get involved in addressing issues of equity and diversity with MAPE statewide.
* Contact: Lauren Siegel (lsiegel@mape.org)

**MAPE Business Agent update – Debbie Prokopf**

* MMB directed all agencies to engage in exercise as to what 5% trim of budget would look like. Meet and Confer met 1-2 weeks ago with leadership to find out what DHS came up with for this.
* Central Office can achieve savings through not filling vacancies rather than laying people off. DCT- if they don’t get budget supplement they requested in special session it will be closing whole programs, rather than letting programs wither understaffed. Nothing that DCT does is expendable so this is disheartening. Hopeful that supplemental budget will come through.
* Action: Contact key legislators that need to hear from you to secure the supplemental budget!
* Contact: Here are the key legislators with suggested talking points: <https://mape.org/news/DHSdeficit>. Modify to reflect your own situation.

**Member Concerns and Other Announcements – All**

* Next MAPE 101 is Tuesday, July 28, 12-1 p.m. via WebEx. If you are interested in attending, contact Amelia Fink (amelia.fink@state.mn.us) for the meeting link. Info about the topic of discussion will be coming soon.
* We will continue our conversation about equity and inclusion at our August meeting.
* Reminder- we are still fulfilling [Good and Welfare](file:///X%3A%5CMAPE%5CLocal_2101%5CCommon%5CMember%20Resources%5CGood%20and%20Welfare) requests! Contact Sylvia Kidder or fill out and submit [the Good and Welfare requests form](https://goo.gl/forms/H9JBdOPjJD173ms52). A link to the form is always in our meeting agendas.

**Gift card winners!**

* June’s meeting: Christine Anderson, Rebecca Johnson, Andrea Lessinger, Brittany Riopelle
* This month’s meeting: Elisabeth Atherly, Amelia Fink, Patty Fowler, Abigail Franklin

## Upcoming meetings

* Next Officers’ meeting: Thursday, July 23, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., via WebEx. Let Liz Pearson know if you would like the invite.
* Next General Meeting: Tuesday, August 11, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., via WebEx. Stay tuned for the invite!