

# **Statewide Vice President**

Thu Phan

## **MAPE CANDIDATE PERSONAL STATEMENT FORM**

For Statewide Office of: **Vice-President**

Name: Thu Phan

Current Department:

Revenue **Personal**

**Statement: Who**

**Am I?**

My name is Thu Phan and I am not your average Thu (“toe”)! I work in Appeals and Legal Services at the Minnesota Department of Revenue. I am a proud state employee and MAPE member for the past 10 years. I am running for MAPE Statewide Vice-President for three important reasons: (1) defend and advance our MAPE Contract, (2) empower stewards with training and resources, and (3) improve collaboration between stewards and MAPE local and statewide leaders. These three reasons will make our union STRONGER.

**Why Vote For Me?**

In the past year as MAPE Statewide First Vice-President, I have been diligently working with stewards, chief stewards, and enforcement business agents to introduce new measures to advance our steward and chief steward development strategic priority.

- ✓ Increased the number of Basic Steward and Advanced Steward trainings.
- ✓ Improved the Advanced Steward Training to empower stewards to competently and fairly represent their colleagues in an investigation or grievance.
- ✓ Working with stewards, chief stewards, and enforcement business agents to develop online learning modules and toolkit that will be available for everyone to access 24/7.

- ✓ Distributed cheat sheets to all stewards and chief stewards on such topics as a steward's role in investigations, performance review appeals, reallocation appeals, and Respectful Workplace Policy claims.
- ✓ Working with stewards, chief stewards, and enforcement business agents to plan the first ever Steward Summit on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

It has been a great honor and privilege to work with you on our steward and chief steward development strategic priority. Again, I am not your average Thu. Please **RE-ELECT** me, Thu Phan, as MAPE Statewide Vice-President because together we can make our union **STRONGER!**

### Valerie LaPorte

My name is Valerie LaPorte. I have been a MAPE member for 8 years as a therapist with the Department of Corrections. I have served as a steward and Vice President in Local 1903. More importantly, I have also served on the Statewide DOC Meet and Confer and as the Region 19 Chief Steward for 6 years. These union positions have provided me with the knowledge and experience to be an effective Statewide Vice President. It is important as an organization, that a Chief Steward supervise and oversee the Employee Rights Committee. Chief Stewards have an integral understanding of the issues in our worksites. Essentially, stewards are the backbone of our union. We cannot be a strong union and NOT defend our contract.

As Vice President, I will ensure that stewards have the support and resources they need to be effective advocates and contract enforcers for all MAPE members. This is an area of great concern, and one that needs an effective leader to facilitate the necessary changes to make our union even stronger in the future. I believe that I am that leader. I will be a strong voice for stewards and members as our Vice President.

Membership is important to MAPE and our future. However, if we do not support our stewards, they cannot support our members. This union is only as strong as its weakest steward. It is my intent to ensure that we have stewards and leadership that is iron clad.

## **Local 1502 Secretary**

Heather Schneider

My name is Heather Schneider. I work for the Office of Online Learning at Minnesota State University Moorhead. I have been a State employee for one year, and a MAPE member for one year. I have interested in the position of secretary for a union in which I strongly support.

Thank you,

Heather Schneider

Office of Online Learning, MSUM

1 year, 1 year

Nicole Anderson

My name is Nicole Anderson. I work for MN State Colleges & Universities at Minnesota State University Moorhead. I have been a State employee for a little over a year and a MAPE member since I started. I'm interested in the position of local secretary to learn more about MAPE, and specifically my local, and to be of service to my fellow MAPE employees. If elected, I will keep an accurate record of local proceedings and try my best to keep members informed of local activities.

## **Local 2101 Membership Secretary**

Katie Bauer

I'm Katie Bauer, whose 31-year career includes six years at the House of Representatives as media writer and radio/TV coordinator; 25 years at DHS for the Minnesota Family Investment Program Field Trials and as media relations and public information officer, and communications coordinator and director under 10 commissioners. Also in the Governor's Office briefly on loan. I have worked part time and full time, classified and unclassified. Previously an editor at three daily newspapers in Minnesota

and Georgia. I envision multiple ways my MAPE can improve working conditions for contributing professionals and elevate the valid concerns of invaluable public servants.

### Whitney Terrill

My name is Whitney Terrill. I work for the Department of Human Services in St. Paul. I have been a State employee for four years, and a MAPE member for most of my service. I am running for membership secretary of Local 2101 to welcome and help members navigate the many opportunities that come from being a MAPE member and leader. If I am elected, you will find me to be a fair, inclusive and collaborative membership secretary. I will work hard to encourage emerging leaders and voices from our local.