



MAPE 101 Union Lines

January 2024

Local 101 news

By Alexis Lohse, Local 101 president

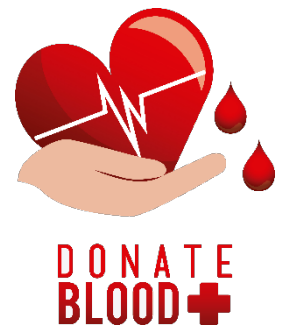
Greetings and happy 2024, fellow 101'rs. Local 101 is set to grow this year as budget items for the previous legislative session turn into hiring across agencies. Ours are no exception and Local 101 needs members to step into various leadership roles. Below are some positions to be filled via a spring 2024 election:

- Region 1 director: Our previous director, Darci Wing, has stepped in on an interim basis but is at the term limit for this statewide position. Learn more about the Board of Directors and representing our region at the state level with MAPE.
- Region 1 negotiator: Currently held by yours truly, this position is up for election in spring 2024. Learn more about the negotiations team and how you can represent us at the bargaining table next spring!

MAPE Benefits

Blood donation leave benefit

Did you know you can use leave to donate blood? Per [Minnesota Statute 43A.187](#), state employees are entitled to three hours of paid leave every calendar year "to donate blood at a location away from their place of work." Make sure to give your supervisor 14 days' notice and use earn code "MSL" on your timesheet.



Local 101 gives back through holiday donations

Thanks to one generous DLI member who upped the balance by \$100, Local 101 had \$1,700 to donate to local organizations this holiday season. Nominated and approved by your fellow members, the money went to:

- Avenues for Youth
- The Listening House
- Second Harvest Heartland
- Union Gospel Mission



Members, Mutts and Meows



Jed Becher, DNR agency web liaison

I have been in Minnesota since I was five years old, transplanted from southern Wisconsin. Shortly after moving to Rochester, my parents had this idea of buying a farm and playing farmer on the weekends. It was an interesting experience since both my parents grew up as city kids. We bought 80 acres west of Rochester and before long we were raising corn, soybeans, oats, alfalfa, cows, chickens, dogs, horses and sheep. We had upwards of 50 sheep and 12 horses at various times. I did get comfortable on horses like one of our other MAPE members wrote earlier. I showed horses regularly as a kid and went

to the state 4H horse show a few times. I met my future wife at this time and when we rode ponies together when I was 7 or 8. We started dating in college.

I credit my love of the outdoors to my early time on the farm, being in Boy Scouts and early church trips to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Those experiences gave me the bug to travel to many national parks across the lower 48. I've been to almost all the major national parks and every state except Alaska, Hawaii, Louisiana and Mississippi. My wife and I dragged our two daughters on these trips as well, often stuffed in the back of our Prius. They didn't seem to be building much of a love for the parks like I had hoped early on, but eventually it stuck. Both daughters love the outdoors now, with one majoring in adventure education in Durango, Colorado. I will be visiting her during spring break for the next four years and skiing with her at Purgatory in the San Juan Mountains. The last time we were at Zion National Park climbing up Angels Landing, my youngest asked me why we didn't hike more on our previous visit to the park. I reminded her of a common response she and her sister had when I'd suggest we go for a hike, which was usually, "Do we have to?" She reluctantly remembered saying that.

I started working for the state of Minnesota in 1991 at Minnesota Geospatial Information Office's predecessor, the Land Management Information Center, supporting a disk operating system-based geographic information system (GIS) software the state marketed called EPPL7; it was the first GIS software used by the state. It was a great student-worker job while I was pursuing a master's degree in landscape architecture that has not been used. Then that internet thing happened, and I found myself managing the Minnesota Department of Transportation's website. I came to the DNR to join the web team in 2007. Minnesota IT Services (MNIT) was formed during the IT consolidation 10 years ago. Today, I find myself part of MNIT instead of the DNR, but I am still on the web team.

Fun fact: I am skilled at riding on three wheels and have been riding Honda three-wheelers since 1981. My trail rider is a Honda 350X. I also buy and sell Honda three-wheelers, buying them to fix up and sell or sell parts from. I also have a couple of soon to be vintage snowmobiles and early Jet Skis. My cylinder index is quite high for being a bit of a tree hugger.

Pets: Our family has two black labs, Buddy and Lucky (named by the girls when they were much younger). Both are well trained as they were taken to 4H dog obedience for several years. I also have one cat named Ginsby, named after a former justice. Again, she was named by my girls, but at a much older age.

What I like about MAPE: Being able to help others solve or work through issues they are having in their work life through my role as lead steward for MAPE in Region 1 and being on both the DNR and MNIT meet and confer teams.

Contract corner

MAPE members ratify memorandum of understanding incorporating earned sick and safe time law into contract

By Blair Emerson, MAPE Local 101 Communications Committee

MAPE members last month ratified a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that incorporates the earned sick and safe time (ESST) law into the MAPE contract.

The ESST law allows MAPE employees previously prohibited from accruing sick and safe time due to classification status to earn one hour of sick leave for every 30 hours worked, up to a maximum of 48 hours earned in a year.

Employees can use ESST for reasons such as:

1. the employee's mental or physical illness, treatment or preventive care;
2. a family member's mental or physical illness, treatment or preventive care;
3. absence due to domestic abuse, sexual assault or stalking of the employee or a family member;
4. closure of the employee's workplace due to weather or public emergency or closure of a family member's school or care facility due to weather or public emergency; and
5. when determined by a health authority or health care professional that the employee or a family member is at risk of infecting others with a communicable disease.

In addition, the ESST law allows sick and safe time to be used for family members, including children, spouses and grandparents. A complete list of family members can be found at the DLI [Earned Sick and Safe Time \(ESST\) webpage](#).

Our MAPE Local 101 members play a pivotal role in the ESST law, including overseeing, promoting and enforcing the law for employees statewide.

Read the [MOU](#).



Local 101 newcomers

A big welcome to our new Local 101 folks. If you work with them, ask them if they have [joined the union](#) and help them get involved.

- Vaishnavi Sattagopam, MNIT
- Thomas Schewe, DLI
- Siobhan Dugan, DLI
- Chelsea Crawford, DNR
- Kevin McDonnell, DNR
- Hugo Gonzalez Bedolla, DLI
- Mark Splett, DNR
- Sivpheng Lim, DNR
- Ruslan Babajanov, DLI
- Lyla Brown, DLI
- Collin Fuerst, DLI
- Haley Whitehouse, DNR
- Melissa Parra-Huizar, DLI
- Naomi Cowan, DLI
- Adam Schminski, DLI
- Anna Donnelly, DLI
- Emily Streier, DLI
- Rachel Pain, DNR
- Angelique Dahlberg, DNR
- Daniel Church, MNIT
- Bretta Hines, DLI

We are glad you are here!

About MAPE

MAPE members work in all segments of state of Minnesota service and are significant contributors to the high quality of life that is enjoyed by all Minnesotans. Find more information about the union on [MAPE's website](#).

MAPE's website also has [frequently asked questions for employees new to state government and MAPE](#).

You can find meeting minutes as well as past issues of Union Lines on the [Local 101 page](#) of MAPE's website.

What do you think?

What would you like to see featured? Do you have news to share? Any feedback welcome. Please email your ideas to mapelocal0101@gmail.com.