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MAPE Personal Statements
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*All personal statements are listed in alphabetical order by Last Name.

Contested Elections

Statewide Organizing Council

Organizing Council Member (elect 3)

Michelle Belmont (Local 301)

My name is Michelle Belmont, and I am running for an open seat on the Organizing Council. I was recently appointed to the OC, but due to changes at Delegate Assembly, I want to officially run for this role. I am excited about the newly created Membership Chair of the OC! I feel I am aptly suited for this role, having been the Membership Secretary of Local 301 for the past two years. The work of the Organizing Council is near and dear to my heart. I am thrilled to bring my experience working with the MNIT Meet & Confer, Local 301 Executive Team, mutual aid organizing efforts, and former librarian skills to our union from a statewide role.

Cantare Davunt (Local 501)

I began organizing in 2013 when I began organizing against one of the largest retail stores in the United States, and stood up to Walmart's CEO when they thought they could silence us. I believe that organizing is hard work, but vital to our rights as a union.

I know what it feels like to stand up to the boss, have difficult conversations to ensure our collective voice is heard, I also believe that the only way we organizing for a better future is by doing it, conversations by conversations, action by action, win by win.

In my years of experience organizing, I've learned how to coach people who have never taken action and stood up to their boss, people who have never been vulnerable and shared their testimony publicly about their workplace issues, and trained people who needed help addressing workplace safety.

If elected I intend to bring new faces into our union that can step up into leadership roles that will make our state a better place to work, so we can build a better future for all Minnesotans.

Marissa Dibba (Local 1301)

My name is Marissa Dibba, and I am seeking the Organizing Council Member position because I believe strong unions are built through relationships, clear communication, and meaningful opportunities for members to participate.

My professional career has focused on helping people connect with information, understand complex systems, and take action. I bring experience in strategic marketing and communications, digital engagement, accessibility, analytics, project leadership, training, and stakeholder outreach. In my work at Minnesota State, my responsibilities include leading training and communication efforts for my team and helping connect people across a large, decentralized system. Previously, as a Web and Digital Media Manager, I used communications, technology, and data to improve engagement and access to information. In 2024, I was recognized as the NCMPR District 5 Rising Star for my work in higher education marketing and communications.

Within MAPE, I serve as a Region 13 steward and Treasurer of Local 1301. In 2026, I have worked to turn member needs into practical, accessible resources, including Be an Advocate, When to Contact a Steward, What Professional Communication Looks Like, an ROI of Membership tool, and a calculator to help birthing parents navigate maternity leave and available benefits.

That work reflects what I would bring to the Organizing Council: a focus on recruitment, retention, leadership development, and member engagement, supported by practical tools and communication strategies.

I am especially interested in strengthening outreach to new employees during their first 30 days, helping locals communicate the value of membership consistently, and using data and member feedback to understand where engagement is strong and where we need to do better.

I care deeply about making a difference, helping people find their voice, and building systems that make participation more equitable and accessible. I would bring that same creativity, energy, and commitment to the Organizing Council.

Lee Sullivan (Local 401)

Hi Union Siblings!

My name is Lee Sullivan. I am a Revenue Tax Specialist at the Department of Revenue. I've proudly served MAPE as a Steward, Regional Steward Director, Political Council member (formerly GRC), CEO, LCAT, and more. But no matter the title, my true passion has always been connecting with members on a personal level.

If you know me, you know I love organizing—everything from closets to 1:1s to rallying our members for events!

My priorities are clear: grow our membership and mobilize members to strengthen our collective power.

One of my proudest moments was organizing our Paid Parental Leave campaign, proving just how powerful we are when we stand together! Year-round, you'll find me out in the field—participating in membership blitzes, organizing for events like Day on the Hill, and even driving top turnout for our union's very first precinct caucus this year. I take organizing seriously—I consistently turn out members for events and never hesitate to start conversations, build connections, or step up when needed. If you need people to show up, you can always count on me to bring the crowd.

Since joining the Organizing Council last November, I've seen both our potential and the work still ahead. With a new governor on the way and contract negotiations approaching, staying strong and connected is more important than ever.

My goal is to help build a confident, energized team of leaders in every local—supporting them as they grow, recruit nonmembers, and turn members out when our union needs them most.

My appointment runs through 2027, and I would be honored to continue serving on the Organizing Council and building on our momentum together.
Organized, energized, and ready to serve—I humbly ask for your vote!

Michael Yost (Local 401)

I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for the Organizing Council. I work in the Tax Research Division at the Department of Revenue and have been a MAPE member since my first day working for the State in 2021. I currently serve in a variety of roles for our union: as a steward, delegate, a leader of the Contract Action Team (CAT) for local 401, on the Constitution & Rules committee, and interim member of the Organizing Council. I am running for a full term on the Organizing Council because I want MAPE to be a fighting union capable of winning strong contracts and defending our members.
I would bring over a decade of labor and political organizing experience to this role. Prior to joining MAPE, I was an officer for a graduate worker's union in Florida, organizing student workers in a hostile political environment with a union which lost a third of its members every year to graduation. While there, I helped organize our campus's participation in Florida's Red For Ed one-day strike in 2020. Since joining MAPE, I have helped build 401's CAT, and spearheaded organizing for several Delegate Assembly resolutions with the Solidarity Caucus, including resolutions to defend immigrant rights and supporting a ceasefire in Gaza. I also helped lead the Vote No Initiative against last year's disappointing contract.
As a member of the Organizing Council, I hope to focus on membership growth and strike-readiness. I want to develop CATs across the state by creating training which

focuses on 1:1 organizing conversations and onboarding new leaders. I also want to expand collaboration with local membership secretaries to support membership recruitment. I believe I have the skills, experience and knowledge to excel in this role, and I'd be grateful for your support.

Statewide Political Council

Political Council Member (elect 3)

Sanderia Davis (Local 602)

My name is Sanderia Davis (she/her), I work for Minnesota Housing in Downtown Saint Paul. I have 19 years of state service starting in an AFSCME represented position with MSOCS-Biwabik in 2004, and a MAPE member for almost 10 years. As a dedicated advocate for collective action, I've had the privilege of serving our small but mighty local in various capacities, including Committee Member for the Political Organizing Team and Union Power Project, Civic Engagement Officer, Steward, and Local Membership Secretary since 2019, as well as Delegate for the years 2018, 2019, 2025 and 2026. Rooted in the values of unity and collective action, I'm driven by the conviction that together, we can negotiate for fair pay increases, affordable healthcare, safer work conditions, remote work, and a 32-hour work week. My top priority is empowering our members to know their voices matter, and their presence makes a difference. If I am elected as a Political Council Member, I'll drive momentum into the 2027 negotiations by building broad coalitions, energizing community engagement, and expanding our membership percentages.

Lindsey Franklin (Local 101)

My name is Lindsey Franklin (she/her). I am a fourth-generation union member running for Political Council (PC). I currently coordinate legislation for 18 small agencies. Previously, I spent five years in workers' rights policy, including as Oregon AFL-CIO political staff and a Labor Law Clerk for the U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor. Labor policy is truly my passion, and I am a workers' rights advocate above all else.

As public sector workers, we are in a unique position because both the legislative and executive branches shape our working conditions. Their decisions affect our ability to take care of ourselves and our families, especially as rising costs and meager wage increases squeeze our members. We deserve a voice in those decisions, which means engaging throughout the political process, from caucuses and conventions to elections and legislative advocacy.

I moved to Minnesota to work for the state and join MAPE, becoming a member on my first day of state service. I joined the PAC Board in February 2024 and PC in January 2025 and serve as Vice Chair of both. Since joining the PC, I've worked closely with other members to develop and coordinate our caucus and convention program, resulting in hundreds of MAPE members attending the 2026 precinct caucuses and over 70 attending the state conventions. MAPE's growing political engagement has been noticed by coalition partners, community leaders, and elected officials.

If elected, I hope to continue bringing members into the political process and strengthen

their political connections in their home communities and within MAPE. Our members deserve a dignified contract reflecting our work for Minnesota. That requires a strong political program that engages members, builds relationships with elected officials, and advocates for budgets that put our negotiations team in the strongest position. I respectfully ask for your vote.

Natalie Haberman (Local 101)

Hi! My name is Natalie Haberman (she/her/hers) and I am a planner in the division of Fish and Wildlife at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and am a member of MAPE local chapter 101. I am interested in joining the MAPE Political Council because I have become increasingly involved in political organizing and have seen firsthand how important political engagement is in building community, relationships, and collective power. The framing around public service and unions continues to be driven by billionaire-class interests that attempt to portray public sector work as a drain of resources and de-value the important work of public servants. To combat these threats and build power as a union, it is critical that we continue to provide political education to members and build a collective movement, rather than operate in the pervasive culture of individualism. I believe that as a union, we need to understand how these larger issues are labor issues that directly impact workers across the state, and we must all be ready to defend our union and advocate for the rights of workers that otherwise will continue to be eroded or pushed back on. I also believe that while the current political system has a lot of problematic aspects to it, participation in electoralism as a form of harm reduction is important to ensure we elect leaders that will advocate for workers' rights and improve day-to-day quality of life, while continuing to fight for larger, transformative change. Additionally, we must continue to engage in grassroots organizing beyond elections to build power and community, and put pressure on elected officials outside of the election cycle to ensure they continue fighting for workers.

Anna Grace Tiede Haberman (Local 1402)

I am honored to accept the nomination for the Political Council position with MAPE. I have seven years of experience in community advocacy and policy development, which has also been intertwined with campaign management for the current Governor of New Mexico, along with two of the Congresswoman in New Mexico. Those years working in political action on the frontlines started my eagerness and energy for policy change and development, which has led me into my current role for the state helping people navigate the complex systems that people face on a day to day basis. I am eager to have the opportunity to work with MAPE to help change the trajectory for our union, union members, and folks around the state.

Josh Lease (Local 1301)

I am running for Political Council because I wish to continue putting my skills and experience to use on behalf of my fellow members of MAPE. I am a former political

consultant, having worked for the better part of a decade to elect pro-Labor candidates to office, and I have served MAPE most recently as a member of the MAPE PAC Board, where we supported a strong slate of pro-Labor and pro-MAPE candidates, and are backing them up with doorknocks and phonebanking, not just dollars. While my goals are aspirational, I am a political realist most concerned with finding support for our membership that is struggling the hardest. Continuing to build political power and alliances is critical for MAPE, and I would like to work towards that. I hope that members will find my experience useful to the Political Council.

Aaron Wagner (Local 802)

My name is Aaron Wagner, and I am a proud steward of Local 802. I spend my workdays in the IT department at the state pension, MSRS, where I am honored to help our members retire with dignity. I am also a member of the Political Council which I was appointed to by former interim President Halseth. I spent three years as a MAPE-endorsed city councilor on the Robbinsdale City Council, advocating for union values. This amalgamation of experiences has lent itself well to the multifaceted work Political Council engages in and I want to continue that effort. I want to expand our electoral involvement, labor movement solidarity, and legislative initiatives to benefit all Minnesotans.

We need to have a union that is willing to organize and fight for the strongest contract possible. Our contract is not only a legal document, it is a political one. Inside of it we boldly claim that all of us, regardless of who we are, deserve to have dignity and respect at work.

The role of the Political Council is to bring our membership to this understanding. By doing so we can elevate our contract fight into a broader conversation of what it means to have union protections and solidarity with one another. Without those things any strike action would quickly falter.

I know firsthand the power of organizing at the ground level. Our union is in a strong position to leverage our members' community ties because of the work the current Political Council has done via CivEOs and Lobby Day. I would be honored to continue helping those initiatives. If elected, I will bring my organizing, collaborative policy-making, team-building, and leadership skills I have learned in my time on the city council and with MAPE. Thank you for your consideration. Solidarity.

Statewide Treasurer

Treasurer

Matthew Benjamin (Local 1502)

I feel my background in accounting and auditing will help our union develop more robust internal controls and policies to strengthen our union moving forward. I am dedicated to serving our members in an open, transparent, and inclusive manner. I am committed to ensuring our financial health is protected and improved without having undo impact on our members.

Ronald Dixon (Local 401)

Our union is facing unprecedented threats: a federal government which is actively targeting our state, a governor whose unilateral decisions harmed our members, and a swell of corporate special interests spreading anti-labor propaganda with the intent of destroying unions.

We need to be a fighting union, and as your next Statewide Treasurer, I will work tirelessly to ensure we are positioned to counteract these threats and be ready to strike come 2027 if political leaders force our hand.

If elected, I will do more than simply cut checks and approve expenses. I will:

- Advocate for substantial investments in membership drives to make our union strike-ready.
- Develop trainings for new local treasurers who enter the role with few resources, an experience I had when I became the Local 401 Treasurer in 2018
- Work with locals to develop budgets that build grassroots union power.
- Fight to phase out the “dues cap” to make our dues more progressive while beefing up our union’s financial strength.
- Use my extensive auditing experience to bring oversight and transparency to our union’s budget and expenses.
- Revamp our financial policies, just as I’ve done with other policies as the Chair of MAPE’s Constitution & Rules Committee.
- Update our union’s antiquated accounting system.

Most importantly, I will fight to use our funds to empower our union to overcome the myriad challenges that lie before us.

I hope to earn your support. To learn more, please visit http://www.ronalddixon.com/ or contact me at RWDixon1993@gmail.com or 763-242-0816. I’m available to answer any questions.

Local 101

Vice President

Rachel Morice

I'm Rachel, and I'm asking for your vote to serve again as Vice President of MAPE Local 101.
The VP role matters most when things get hard. If we head into a strike or a tough fight with management, you need officers who already know how this local works, who stay steady under pressure, and who won't disappear when it counts. I'll be ready for that.

My day job is grant administration and program management. I read the fine print, track commitments, and follow up until things get done. That's what I'll bring if we need it.
What you can expect from me:
• I'll be at the meetings, prepared.
• I'll answer your questions directly, even when the answer isn't what you want to hear.
• If we need to mobilize, I'll be there doing the work alongside you.

Alex Selle

My name is Alex Selle and I'm running to be the MAPE Local 101 Vice President. I'm in my third year with the Minnesota DNR as a Hydrologist on the Region 3 – South District Team based out of the Saint Paul Regional Headquarters. I grew up in Rochester and began my career with the Wisconsin DNR, where I spent 7.5 years working in Aquatic Invasive Species along the Great Lakes and Chippewa River watersheds before moving home to Minnesota.

Becoming a MAPE member and increasing my involvement through Delegate Assembly has broadened my understanding of the importance of worker solidarity. With increasing attacks on worker rights and uncertainty in the workplace both at the agency and state level, it is more important than ever to form strong working coalitions and leadership within local labor organizing.

As the Local 101 Vice President, I would focus on broadening our current membership and improving member engagement through succinct usage of Local 101's available budget, staff, and expertise. By strengthening the sense of community within MAPE, we'll strengthen our collective power when we step up to the plate to improve our wages, benefits, and overall workplace quality.

When I am not working with our beautiful public waters, you can often find me enjoying them and Minnesota's scenic outdoors through fishing, hunting, and biking. I'm also an avid reader and enjoy spending time with my fiancée and our various critters, Gibby the orange cat, Wayne the tortoise shell cat, and Radar the German Shepherd.
In Solidarity - Alex

Local 701

Local 701 Secretary

Shauna Bridger

Thank you all for this nomination. I'm honored to accept it and truly grateful. Having served as Secretary for the past five years, I've been part of and seen the strength, dedication, and solidarity that make Local 701 what it is. If elected again, I will continue to strive for clear communication, and to keep our members informed. I'm committed to representing this local with the same transparency, and respect that I've brought to the role over the years. I appreciate the opportunity to continue serving Local 701.

Devonte Roache

I am honored to be nominated for both Local Secretary and Local President. It is truly meaningful to know that my colleagues believe in my ability to serve. I am eager to learn more about MAPE's functions, and I view the Local Secretary role as an excellent opportunity to gain hands-on experience within our local operations. In my career, I have developed skills in recording minutes for commission meetings and managing the posting of materials to websites. This position offers a strong foundation for my continued growth and will help me develop into the leader our local needs.

Local 1901

Local 1901 President

Christi Berry

I worked 6 years at MSOP and 3 1/2 years at FMHP. I have served as VP for one-2-year term, and President for 1 year and 3 months, of a 2-year term. Unfortunately, in March I had a hand/wrist injury that has required me to be out on medical leave. When possible, I have remained active within MAPE within the limits of medical leave during this time and have worked towards training as a 2027 contract cycle co-negotiator, along with Nicki Buechner, current treasurer. Throughout my term as president, I have attended as many additional trainings as possible to serve you in the best capacity possible from a place of knowledge. When I was elected president, I vowed to be as transparent with information as I knew it or had been provided it. I ensured you had as much information as possible to make your decisions; decisions that were in the best interest of yourself and your family, without presenting my own opinions or biases. I took your concerns to MAPE central and did my best to represent the members. Although we did not achieve every outcome member sought, I did present the information to appropriate bargaining departments and/or local administration. I advocated endlessly for safer work environments, alongside other labor unions, advocated for better overall working conditions, with a few wins along the way. I would continue the work I started: advocating for safer workplaces and better working conditions, providing current

information, maintaining transparency with members and administration, and representing rural Minnesota within MAPE.

Matthew Melvin

My name is Matthew Melvin, and I am honored to accept the nomination for President of MAPE Local 1901.

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to serve our local in several roles, including six years as Membership Secretary and the past two years as Vice President and Interim President. These experiences have given me a better understanding of our members, our local, and the responsibilities that come with serving in leadership.

I like to think of myself as a level-headed, common-sense person. As I look at our local and where we go from here, I would like to explore the common goals that can bring us together, strengthen our unity, and make sure every member has a voice.

I believe in transparency, honesty, and being willing to listen. I don't pretend to have all the answers, but I do know how to find them, ask the right questions, and work toward solutions.

Thank you for considering me and for taking a chance on me. I would be honored to have the opportunity to continue serving the members of MAPE Local 1901 as your President.

Local 2101

Local 2101 Treasurer

Paul Shryer

I have been a member of local 2101 for the past three and one-half years and I believe it is time that I step up and lend a hand. I have prior experience serving as treasurer for a local branch of a national non-profit organization. I have served on the 2101 audit committee for the previous 3 years and I have a good understanding of how MAPE handles funds. In short, I have the experience needed to serve as a local treasurer and I ask you to allow me to serve as your Local 2101 Treasurer.

Sten Wall

My name is Sten Wall. I work for the Department of Human Services in the Behavioral Health Administration on the Payments and Rates team. I am running to ensure that we have at least one competitive race in our local so that we can find out how many people in our local are voting. My true passion is the Statewide Elections Committee but I am willing to help out any way that I can. I have assisted the treasurer with duties in the past including the Audit Committee, Good and Welfare Acknowledgements as well as Hardship Requests. I will continue to offer my services even if I am not elected.

Uncontested Elections

Board of Directors

Region 20 Director

John Ferrara

My name is John Ferrara, and I am a computer systems administrator for Winona State University in Rochester. I am a steward and have been a member of MAPE since 2006. I am running to serve as Region 20 Director. I have been a MAPE officer since 2013, serving as Local 2001 Vice President, President, Region 20 Director, and on MAPE's statewide Political Council, including a term as chair with seats on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Now I want to bring that experience home.
In those local and regional roles, I saw what we can accomplish when we organize. From 2013 to 2019, we grew Region 20 membership from 61% to over 74%, just four members short of 75%.

Region 20 looks different today. Since 2019, the number of employees we represent has grown by more than 80, but membership has stayed roughly flat, and our rate has fallen to about 62%. Rebuilding that rate will be a top priority: reaching new employees, building relationships, and making sure everyone is asked to join.

My statewide work reinforced how important it is that members outside the metro are heard. As Region 20 Director, I will use the relationships I have built to advocate for agencies and worksites throughout southeastern Minnesota.

I serve on the statewide Constitution and Rules and Governance Committees, and I was Region 20 Director during MAPE's last major restructure in 2017. With another possible restructure on the horizon, I know how structural decisions ripple down to regional and local levels, and I will make sure Region 20 has a voice in how those decisions are made. I believe power is built through relationships, organizing, and members working together. I would be honored to serve Region 20 again.

Statewide Meet & Confer

Speaker of the Meet & Confer Chairs

Ann Adkisson (Local 1401)

Hello! I am Ann Adkisson, your currently elected Speaker of Meet & Confer Chairs.
At the August 2026 Negotiations Convention, I won a contested race for Speaker. Due to the passage of a resolution at Delegate Assembly, I am running again for this position

statewide. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue building on the work I began just a few months ago when I was elected by the Chairs of your Meet & Confer Committees.

With 10 years of Meet & Confer experience, including 3 years as the Revenue Meet & Confer Chair and 2 as Vice Chair, as well as service on the Board of Directors and Chair of the Board Governance Subcommittee, I believe I am well-positioned to build upon the strong foundation established by my predecessor.
As we move toward 2027, I am committed to developing strong proposals for both Negotiations and Supplemental issues, while ensuring that Meet & Confer remains an effective tool for addressing workplace concerns. My goal is to help every Meet & Confer Committee succeed and have a meaningful voice.

Don't have a Meet & Confer Committee at your agency but see issues that fall outside the contract? Let's talk about how to start one and make it work for members' needs.
A little about me: I have worked for the State of Minnesota for more than 16 years at the Department of Revenue and have been a proud MAPE member throughout my career. A few years into my state service, I became involved as a steward and have continued expanding my union involvement ever since. Leadership positions I have held or currently hold within MAPE include Local 1401 President, Region 14 Director, Governance Chair, Building Corp Secretary, Revenue Meet & Confer Chair, and Region 14 Steward. Thank you!

DEED Meet & Confer Chair

Michael Prideaux

I am running for DEED Meet and Confer Chair. I was previously the vice chair. I hope to continue to lead the DEED M&C to resolve problems with management and advocate for better working conditions for all MAPE folk in DEED.

Trustees

Trustee

Carly Baade (Local 902)

I have been a member of local 902 for ten years. In that time I had the honor of representing Region 9 as Negotiator for two contract cycles. Being a statewide Trustee is a new opportunity to serve my Union. I would approach this role with integrity, honesty and an open mind.

Local 101

Local 101 President

Keylor Andrews

I'll do it.

Local 101 Membership Secretary

Melanie Riddle

I'm interested in continuing as Membership Secretary because I've really enjoyed serving in the temporary role and getting more involved with Local 101. Taking on this position has given me a better understanding of the membership process and the work that goes into keeping our union connected and supporting our members.
One of the things that is important to me, both personally and professionally, is treating people with fairness and respect. I believe everyone deserves to feel heard, have access to the information they need, and know that their concerns matter. I see membership work as an important part of supporting our collective bargaining efforts. Being organized and responsive is important, but so is being approachable and making people feel comfortable reaching out.
I also bring my experience as a steward, which has helped me understand the importance of supporting members and knowing when to connect them with the right resources or other members who can help. I'd like the opportunity to continue in the position, build on what I've learned, and continue growing Local 101.
I'm dependable, willing to put in the time, and committed to doing the job well. Most importantly, I want to help strengthen our local by encouraging membership, engagement, and a stronger connection among our members.

Local 101 Secretary

Sascha Lodge

My name is Sascha Lodge. I work for the Department of Natural Resources in the Division of Forestry, based out of St. Paul. I have been a state employee for seven years and a MAPE member since I started working for the state. I have served as Local 101's secretary since 2024 and I ensure that our monthly membership meeting minutes are posted to the MAPE website. I am also a Contract Action Team member and a MAPE steward. I think it's important for members to know what's happening at our meetings and be kept informed of union activities so everyone can learn how they can play a role in building a stronger union.

Local 101 Treasurer

Tyler Teggatz

I would be delighted to serve as Treasurer of Local 101 for another term. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Local 201 (Special)

Local 201 President

Spenser Bickett

I was honored to be asked to step in as temporary local president while our current president takes on a negotiations role. I look forward to continuing to strengthen our local officer team to set our local up for success during this important negotiations cycle.

Local 201 Vice President

Kurtis Parlin

I'm Kurtis Parlin, I'm a Contracts Attorney at DHS, and I've worked for the State of Minnesota almost 15 years. I was transferred to DCYF when it opened, and I slowly saw the relationship DCYF has with its employees turn more and more adversarial. I talked with colleagues and started challenging leadership in open forums. Not everyone can do that and still feel safe. I can, so I must.

Local 301 (Special)

Local 301 President

Quinn Carr

My name is Quinn Carr and I'm seeking support for the Local 301 President role. I have thoroughly enjoyed being Local 301's president since 2025, and I believe that my background and experience in MAPE are a good fit for this position. Since 2022, I have been involved in our unions political work through the PAC where I have helped interview and door knock for candidates across Minnesota. This experience has helped me meet a diverse range of MAPE members and leaders while being able to effectively communicate how important state workers are to serving Minnesotans. Taking on this Local President role has helped me be able to connect 301 members to important work happening across MAPE. I have provided consistent communication and highlight opportunities for members to make contributions to MAPE through our local meetings

and email communications. I think it's important to have continuity in leadership during this moment where we are facing huge budget shortfalls and will likely have a hard fight with MMB for our 2027 contract negotiations. It would be an honor to serve in this capacity for one more term, and I am committed to empowering 301 members to be leaders in MAPE while ensuring that we all have a place in the fight for working people.

Local 301 Vice President

Amanda Swanson

I am ready to serve my local as we head into a difficult contract fight.

Local 301 Secretary

Wesley Knox

I'm thrilled to accept my nomination for local secretary. I'm eager to assist the other local exec's in holding our local meetings, documenting our meeting via minutes, and working to build power at the local level as we enter a challenging next chapter for our union.

Local 501

Local 501 President

Amber Alton

I'm excited to be running for President of Local 501. I believe that a strong local is necessary to power-building, particularly as we approach a negotiations cycle with a new governor. As local President, I will work hard to build community and solidarity within our local (and across locals and regions), ensuring that we are in the strongest position possible during the negotiations cycle.

Local 501 Membership Secretary

Kas Filbert

I have been serving as membership secretary for 501 for the past year and would like to continue to do so. Hopefully most folks in our local will at least recognize my name (if not my face). Local 501 has grown a lot over the past year with all of the new hires at in Paid Leave, but I have no intention of forgetting all of the other folks that help make our local great (shoutout to UI and the rest of DEED!). I hope to continue to inspire others to get engaged with our union. We have power together!

Local 502

Local 502 President

Aya Johnson

Hello! My name is Aya Johnson and I am running for local president of MAPE Local 502. I work in the Department of Public Safety's Office of Justice Programs as a grant manager on the Crime Victim Services grant unit. I have held the role of local president since January 2026 after the previous local president stepped down. I have been part of Local 502 leadership since April 2025 and have been a member of MAPE since mid-2024, shortly after I started state service.

State workers are the backbone of Minnesota. We tirelessly and selflessly work to ensure the residents of Minnesota have the best quality of life possible. I believe MAPE's role is to ensure state workers have the best quality of life possible, too. We deserve competitive wages that keep up with or exceed inflation. We deserve to have safe, flexible, and accommodating work environments that help us thrive. We deserve affordable access to healthcare for us and our families. My goal as local president is to make sure people in Local 502 feels safe and supported in their workplace.

As we go into another negotiation year, I will encourage Local 502 members to share their opinions with negotiators, talk to their legislators, and speak up for themselves and the important work that they do. I will work to increase Local 502's membership rates so that we can show management that we are united. And I will continue to advocate for state workers' rights.

Lastly, I deeply grateful for MAPE's staff's dedication and hard work on behalf of us state workers. I support efforts to ensure MAPE leaders and members treat them with dignity and respect, including supporting fair contracts for their unions. We all do better when we all do better!

Local 502 Membership Secretary

Terrance Smith

I am honored and grateful to accept this nomination. Thank you for your confidence and support. I look forward to the opportunity to serve, contribute, and make a positive difference.

Local 502 Secretary

Cynthia Matthias

My name is Cynthia Matthias and I'm a candidate for the office of local secretary for 502. I have been a member of MAPE since 2024, when I started working at MDH. I transferred to the Office of Justice Programs at DPS in 2025 where I work in research and evaluation, and became a steward in 502 earlier this year. Prior to working for the state, I was a member of AFSCME local 2864 where I served as a trustee.

I'm running for this office because I want to lend support to the work of the union by being more engaged. The basic work of keeping a union up, running, listening to, and serving its members is ongoing, but I think this work especially important now, as we approach a contract negotiation year while we're also fighting efforts to break down the connections that hold our communities and institutions together. I want to help keep our collective efforts strong.

Local 502 Treasurer

Vadym Kerestesh

To help the local!

Local 701

Local 701 President

Matthew Figgins

I accept my nominations for Local 701 President. I believe in what community and collective power can do. I've am actively involved, and I've seen the immense amount of work it takes. Working alongside the small number of folks doing the work to build a better collective. My hope is to help build engagement and energy for our causes because many hands make light work.

My expectation of members and non-members is the same expectation I have of myself… Get involved and be active! As a procurement professional I need to be a high-quality communicator and as President I want to work to improve communications for members. The work of a local president means showing up, having tough conversations and listening. As an established Contract Action Team Lead (LCAT), I have conducted several trainings, been a part of coalition building and learning about the intricacies of union work.

I believe holding on to what we have is no longer good enough. Wages, healthcare, telework and working conditions are slowly being eroded. Whether your work is maintaining the building, facilitating legislative policy, technology, etc., workers are the State's most valuable assets. We must fight for each other and remind management that 1.5% annual increases won't cut it.

My desires are straight forward - good working conditions, fair wages, quality healthcare and clear expectations of our work. I want to do this while fortifying our unions main source of power… Our numbers.

Local 701 Vice President

Liz Samuel

My name is Liz Samuel, and I am grateful for the opportunity to run for Vice President of our Local. I'm excited to step forward once again and run for Vice President. After 15 years of state service—and currently serving as Local Vice President and Steward—this work has become a meaningful part of my life. It's more than a role; it's a commitment to the people I care about and the workplace we share.

Over the years, I've learned the importance of listening deeply, showing up consistently, and being someone, members can trust. Whether helping a colleague navigate a challenge or working through issues with our leadership team, I've always tried to approach every situation with empathy, patience, and respect. These experiences have shaped the kind of leader I strive to be approachable, steady, and dedicated to making sure everyone feels supported and heard.

Stepping back into the Vice President role would allow me to continue doing what matters most to me—strengthening our Local, building open communication, and making sure every member knows they have someone they can rely on. I want to continue fostering a space where people feel comfortable reaching out and confident that their concerns will be taken seriously.

Thank you for considering me

Local 701 Membership Secretary

Lolita Davis-Carter

I am running for MAPE Local 701 Membership Secretary because I want to be more involved in supporting our members and strengthening our local.

I believe every member deserves to be heard, informed, and treated with respect. Good communication and organization are important to making sure our members know what is happening and have an opportunity to be involved in the decisions that affect them. If elected, I will bring commitment, dependability, and respect to the position. I will work with our local leadership and members to encourage participation, improve communication, and support Local 701's goals. I am asking for your support and the opportunity to serve as your MAPE Local 701 Secretary. I am committed to doing the work, listening to our members, and helping build a stronger and more connected local.

Thank you for your support and your vote.

Local 901

Local 901 President

Linda Kopecky

While I have been a public servant for my entire career, working in or adjacent to various levels of governmental public health, my position at Minnesota Department of Health is my first union job. It is truly an honor to serve our membership and the union in the role of local president! I have learned over the years that my strengths are in leadership, managing group process, facilitating strategic and operational workgroups, and inspiring others to find and utilize their own gifts. The role of local president is an excellent fit for that skillset! Our leadership team is overflowing with talent, wisdom, experience and dedication. There is no way for me to be "most" or "best" on this team, but rather I can create the conditions for others to achieve their "most" and their "best". Public health is my lifelong passion, public service is my calling, and leading a team is my superpower. I am honored to be considered for local 901 president!

Local 901 Vice President

Maya Sarkar

Thank you for allowing me to serve 901 as the vice president and thank you for nominating me to continue that service. As vice president, I'd like to continue our work to further engage our local, build out our systems for contract action preparedness, increase our solidarity with union siblings, and ensure we are strike ready. In the event of a strike, I will ensure that we are organized, prepared, cared for, and our picket line successful. Thank you again and I hope to continue my service as your vice president.

Local 901 Membership Secretary

Meridith Richmond

I first stepped up to be Local 901's Membership Secretary in February 2023. During my time as membership secretary, we have established a Welcome Committee to help us reach out to new hires and brought on a great co-Membership Secretary, Leo Caravello. Our local membership rate briefly hit 65 and currently is just under 65%. Maintaining our membership rate has required a lot of work, especially on the part of the Welcome Committee, since our local has gained several hundred people since 2023. Working with our regional LCATs, we aim to increase our Local's membership rate to 75% ahead of our next round of negotiations.

I also recently authored a resolution for delegate assembly this year to add a Statewide Membership Secretary, a statewide Membership Committee, and a Vice Chair of the

statewide Membership Committee. Although this resolution did not reach the 2/3rd majority needed to change the constitution, it is evidence of my concern for our union's membership and making sure we are appropriately prioritizing resources to recruit members. Without members, we have no union.

Local 901 Secretary

Maya Gilchrist

Hello! My name is Maya, and I'm a Hydrologist within Environmental Health. I have worked with the state for a little over four years–at MPCA and now MDH–and I've been a proud MAPE member since the beginning. I believe deeply in the power we hold as workers, and I feel both joy in and a responsibility towards cultivating solidarity within our union. I served as the president of MAPE Local 901 in 2025, an incredibly challenging year on a number of fronts. I was and continue to be inspired by not only the organizing prowess but the courage, warmth, and togetherness I saw in our local and region during that time and into the past year–when those were so especially important. After some time away from a formal leadership position in MAPE, I hope to continue contributing to the work of building a strong union together–work which is not possible without the building blocks of meeting organization, communication, and battling Outlook. I'd be honored to earn your vote as Local Secretary!

Local 901 Treasurer

Gordon Keohokalole

Hello! My name is Gordon Keohokalole. I'm a senior software developer with MNIT@MDA, and since 2021 I've been the treasurer for Local 901. My goals as treasurer are to communicate clearly to you all about the local's finances, and to use our budget to build organizing power and solidarity across our local (and across the union as a whole). Thank you for your time and consideration!

Local 902

Local 902 President

Erica Mumm

I believe we have the power to drive positive change when we stand together in solidarity, and that union power comes from community and shared commitment. Here in 902, we are fortunate to have an active local, and I hope we can continue to build upon that strong foundation to empower our membership. My goal is to support new members, organize community events, and promote actions to strengthen our bargaining position.

Local 902 Vice President

Dakota Schneider

My name is Dakota Schneider, and I have worked in IDEPC at the Department of Health since 2021. I am currently a Health Program Representative Intermediate, working in the Emerging Infections program. I joined MAPE in 2021, starting as a Temporary Unclassified employee. Since then, I have been a member of the Solidarity Caucus, and served on the Contract Action Team (CAT), as a current Meet and Confer Member, a current Delegate, a current LCAT, and as a Steward. The role of Vice President is one that I take seriously, as the role is largely that of the Strike Captain; if we strike, this role would work to plan strike roles, maintain the picket line, and make sure that we hold the line as the strike continues. Additionally, the Vice President weighs in on local decisions as part of the local board. Labor unions are extremely important in the way that they allow us the ability to make change within our workplace and in the communities we serve. What better way to make that change than from the rank-and-file members of the union itself. I would be honored to have the opportunity to represent our local and lift our voices as Vice President.

Local 902 Secretary

Hanna Chakoian

My name is Hanna Chakoian. I work for the Department of Health in Saint Paul. I have been a State employee for nearly nine years, and a MAPE member for 7 years. I have been to various actions over the years, and have been involved with Delegate Assembly in a few roles over the last two years. I believe the union is our strongest and often only tool to maintain our working conditions. The local is how we engage members, and members make the union. If elected I will use skills in organization and note taking I use daily in my work to take on the work of supporting our local leadership and keeping our members informed.

Local 902 Treasurer

Lauren Tehan

Hi! My name is Lauren Tehan, and I have been with MDH for a little over 7 years. I started as a student work in the Waterborne Diseases Unit in IDEPC and have continued in that unit as an Epidemiologist for the past 5 years. In those years, I have been so proud of what our union has been able to accomplish, and I am excited to serve our local as treasurer to help us keep moving forward!

Local 1001 (Special)

Local 1001 Vice President

Nicole Freeman

Building Power, Equity, and Inclusion Together

As public-sector workers, our labor fuels the State of Minnesota. MAPE members bring expertise, dedication, and a commitment to public service every day. A strong workplace, however, requires intentional leadership, solidarity, transparency, and a commitment to equity and workers' rights.

I am proud to announce my candidacy for Vice President of MAPE Local 1001. As a public service professional, educator, and systems-change leader, I have dedicated my career to strengthening organizational culture, advancing equity, and ensuring workers have the support and resources they need to thrive.

Through my work as a Metro Staff Trainer with the Minnesota Child Welfare Training Academy, community faculty at Metropolitan State University, and leader in equity and advocacy initiatives, I have developed the skills to bring people together, navigate complex systems, and turn shared goals into meaningful change.

As Vice President, I will focus on four priorities:
-Strengthening Member Voice: Fostering transparent communication and ensuring every member's experiences, concerns, and ideas are heard and represented.
-Advancing Equity and Inclusion: Building on my leadership with the Guardian ad Litem Program's IDEA Group and the NAACP Minneapolis Child Protection Committee to champion fairness, access, and workers' rights.
-Empowering Members: Applying my experience as an educator and trainer to support professional development, peer connection, and access to advocacy resources.
- Building Solidarity: Strengthening partnerships, mobilizing collective action, and fostering collaboration to create lasting change.

My experience in organizational leadership, governance, facilitation, conflict resolution, and civil rights advocacy has prepared me to serve with purpose and accountability.

I believe our local is strongest when every member feels valued, supported, and empowered. Together, we can build a more connected, inclusive, and effective union that amplifies our collective voice and protects the rights of all workers.

In solidarity,
Nicole Freeman, MSW, LGSW, SSW

Local 1001 Treasurer

Pat Roach

Hi! I'm Pat Roach I'm proud to accept the nomination for Treasurer of MAPE Local 1001. I currently work as a Lottery Sale Representative for the MN Lottery in Roseville. I have been a dedicated State employee for and a committed MAPE member for 3 years.

Throughout my career, I have seen firsthand how vital a strong, unified union protects our rights g fair compensation, and maintaining a supportive workplace. If elected as your Local 1001 Treasurer, I am committed to bringing organizational diligence, fiscal responsibility, and absolute transparency to our local's finances.

My goals as Treasurer include:
Fiscal Transparency: Ensuring that our local budget is clear, accessible, and communicated openly to all members so everyone understands how resources support our shared goals.

Responsible Stewardship: Meticulously tracking expenses, managing our funds prudently, and ensuring every dollar directly benefits our membership and strengthens our bargaining power.

Engaged Membership: Working collaboratively with the executive board to support local events, trainings, and initiatives that encourage active participation from all members.

What is most important to me is ensuring that every member's voice is valued and that our local resources are used effectively to advocate for our collective interests. I would be honored to earn your trust and your vote to serve as your MAPE Local 1001, ensurin Treasurer. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to MAPE.

Local 1101

Local 1101 President

Halie Rostberg

Greetings, I am Halie Rostberg from the MN Dept of Corrections. I have been the local President of 1101 since 2000, and prior to that I was the 1101 Vice President. I am also a steward. I am happy to continue serving as local President, but if someone else is interested in the position I am also willing and able to pass on the role and train them in! Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. In solidarity.

Local 1101 Vice President

Kevin Nelson

I am honored to seek continued service as Vice President of Local 1101. I have been a proud MAPE member since 1999, and my commitment to organized labor began long before my career. I grew up in a union household where my father served as an AFSCME negotiator in the 1970s, instilling in me a strong belief in fairness, solidarity, and the

importance of collective action.

Throughout my career, I have remained actively involved in the work that strengthens our union. I walked the picket line during the 2001 strike, currently serve as a steward, have represented members on the DOC Meet & Confer committee, served as a delegate at Delegate Assembly, and participate on the Local 1101 Membership Committee. These roles have provided me with a broad understanding of member needs, contract enforcement, and the value of transparent, collaborative leadership. Serving as the current Vice President has further allowed me to support our local and help advance the priorities of our membership.

My dedication to the union deepened significantly after my layoff seven years ago—the most difficult period of my career. During that time, the union offered not only guidance, but genuine compassion and support. The steward and business agent stood by me, advocated for me, and helped me navigate an incredibly challenging experience. That support made a lasting impact and reinforced why strong representation matters. It inspired me to become more involved so that I could pay forward the care I received and ensure that no member faces difficult times alone.

I remain committed to serving Local 1101 with integrity, respect, and unwavering dedication to our members and our mission.

Local 1101 Membership Secretary

Danelle Gorra

I am currently in the role of 1101 Membership Secretary, having taken it over from Rob Hobsen a couple years ago when he moved up to serve us in the Organizing Council. In addition, I serve as a steward and as a Delegate Assembly Alternate for the last 2 years. I am humbled to have won the 2026 Delegate Assembly Outreach Award and look forward to continuing to bring passion and creativity to the role.
But like you, I am also a member.

A union's greatest strength lies in its collective voice and that strength begins the moment a State worker decides to join us. THANK YOU for taking that step. Right now, that strength is critical. We not only need not only more members, but we also need engaged members to fight for a good contract and protect the contract once in place. MAPE is us.

As your Membership Secretary I look forward to organizing our data, welcoming new members in a timely manner, conducting New Employee Orientations (NEOs), planning blitzes, planning events with our wonderful membership committee all to ensure our union remains a powerful force in our workplace.

Local 1101 Secretary

Michele Wilson

I am currently serving as the Secretary for Local 1101 and estimate I have held the position for nearly five years. I believe in the power of our union voices, strive to positively represent the union, and support our shared goals and responsibilities including but not limited to equitable pay, affordable health care, and other benefits per the contract.

Local 1101 Treasurer

Susan McNeeley

I am honored to run for Treasurer of our union local, a role I have held since 2023.I have spent the last ten years with the Department of Corrections, and I've seen how essential a strong, active union is for protecting workers and improving conditions across our workplaces. As Treasurer, I believe our financial resources should directly support building that power. That means investing in efforts to recruit new members, deepen engagement with current members, and create the opportunities and infrastructure that help us stay informed, connected, and organized. I am dedicated to communicating clearly about how our funds are used and making sure every budget decision reflects our collective priorities. I appreciate your support and your commitment to our shared future.

Local 1102

Local 1102 President

Brian MacNeill

My name is Brian MacNeill, and I am a MAPE member and have been Local President of 1102 for over 3 years. I have been on Minnesota's Department of Veterans Affairs Statewide Meet and Confer for 5 years.

The 1102 local was dead when I stepped in as Local President. We had zero officers. Membership was down. We were limping through a pandemic and our local was all but out. I saw an opportunity to take the Local Presidency on and accepted a nomination from my peer who recommended I take the position.

I took the position and in that time since I have identified and worked with amazing leaders who have stepped up to become officers and stewards for 1102. We conducted our first membership drive and increased membership from 60% to 67%. Local meeting attendance sits around 30-40%.

1102 is now alive and well with amazing leaders and the future is what we will make of it. Together with my other leaders I am excited to see what 1102 can accomplish.

I would ask to lend me your vote, but I fear I may be your only choice. I humbly will continue to accept this duty and lead 1102 with the input from membership towards the best version of a local we can be.

Local 1102 Vice President

Carolyn LaBelle

My name is Carolyn LaBelle and I am running for Vice President of Mape Local 1102. I have worked for the State of MN as a Buyer for just shy of 5 years with the Dept of Veterans Affairs, in Hastings. After our last contract negotiations I wanted to be more involved with the Union. I hope to get more visibility at my office about the Union and all that it offers, and get more people involved - show our strength going forward.

Local 1102 Membership Secretary

Kate Nickerson

I have been an active MAPE member for the past 10 years, and throughout that time I have come to appreciate the important role our union plays in advocating for state employees and creating a stronger workplace for all of us. A strong union depends on engaged members and as membership secretary I want to contribute directly to the strength and success of our local.

Local 1102 Secretary

Jacklyn Maxwell

I am excited at the opportunity to be secretary again for 1102 and help make our local stronger!

Local 1102 Treasurer

Catherine Hopen

I have been a full member in MAPE since I started working for the state 27 years ago. My involvement in the union deepened when I became an 1102 member. I was asked to take on the treasurer position and have remained I am open to letting another take over yet have held this position for approximately 12 years. I enjoy the increased engagement in 1102 and spending the dues on our members while responsibly staying in our budget.

Local 1201 (Special)

Local 1201 Vice President

Jennifer Graika

Hi all! I'm Jennifer and I'm an Accounting Officer for DCTC and IHCC. I'm excited to support Local 1201 as Vice President. It is important that our union is strong and that we work together. I know we all want worksites where we are happy and excited to be at. This comes from having a great union.

Local 1201 Membership Secretary

Angela Bierly

I want to serve on the MAPE Executive Board because I believe every union member deserves to have their voice heard, their concerns taken seriously, and their contributions valued. I want to be a strong advocate for our members and help ensure that decisions made by our union reflect the needs, experiences, and interests of the people we represent.

Being part of the Executive Board would give me the opportunity to support our members, promote fairness and transparency, and help strengthen our union through communication, collaboration, and accountability. I believe a strong union is built when members feel informed, supported, and empowered to participate.

I also want to help ensure that MAPE continues to protect workers' rights, advocate for fair wages and benefits, promote safe and respectful workplaces, and stand together when challenges arise. I understand the importance of listening to different perspectives and working collaboratively to find solutions that benefit our membership as a whole.

Ultimately, I want to serve on the MAPE Executive Board because I care about our members and the future of our union. I am committed to representing members with integrity, respect, and dedication, while helping build a stronger, more inclusive union where every member has a voice and feels represented.

Local 1202 (Special)

Local 1202 Treasurer

Nathan Mens

My name is Nate Mens, and I am running for Treasurer of Local 1202.
I work at Century College in White Bear Lake and have been a State of Minnesota employee since 2011. I became a MAPE member in 2017 when my position moved from

AFSCME to MAPE, and I have been proud to be a member ever since.
Over the years, I've tried to stay involved and give back to our union. I currently serve as a Region 12 steward and, since August, have been serving as Acting Treasurer for Local 1202. Through those roles, I've seen firsthand how important it is to be transparent, accountable, and careful with our members' dues dollars. If elected, I will continue working to keep accurate records, provide clear financial information, and ensure our local's resources are managed responsibly.

Local 1301

Local 1301 President

Nancy Torres

As 1301 MAPE President, I remain steadfast in our mission, continuing to move forward together by advocating for and supporting our members. Our chapter thrives through strength, dedication, and the time we invest in building trust and unity.

I have been actively engaged and have made efforts to connect with our members by exploring ways we can support one another and stay strong together. As President, I am committed to leading with strength, improving our work environments, and earning recognition for our community as “1301 not less.”

MAPE union members we are expecting a tough year ahead of us, we can fight as a team by building our local and remaining stronger.

We need to be active now, we need community support, we need to be recognized as MAPE. I can lead us in that direction with your vote.

Local 1301 Vice President

Michael Crider

I have worked for the state for almost 14 years with almost 9 years in MAPE. As a veteran, the Marine Corp. taught me many things. Respect for self and others around you. Do the right thing. Unrelenting discipline and teamwork in everything you do. Though all I have done in MAPE, it is about all of us, not one. I have been able to carry these forward as a Local President, Regional Negotiator, Regional Director, and Statewide Secretary. We all do better, when we all do better. Together we can push forward. I would like to lead that as Local 1301 Vice President.

Local 1301 Membership Secretary

Shannon Tabaka

I'm grateful for the nomination to serve as MAPE Member Secretary, and I proudly accept. As a steward and frontline behavioral health professional, I've learned that strong unions are built on connection — listening deeply, communicating clearly, and making sure members feel informed and supported.

In my work across high-acuity environments, I've seen how essential it is for members to have accurate information, timely updates, and a reliable point of contact. I believe communication is one of the most powerful tools we have for protecting each other, strengthening our collective voice, and navigating challenges with confidence.

If elected, I will prioritize accessible communication, organized record-keeping, and consistent follow-up. My goal is to ensure members always know where things stand, what resources are available, and how their concerns are being addressed. I am committed to transparency, responsiveness, and maintaining documentation that reflects the needs and experiences of our bargaining unit.

Thank you for trusting me with this opportunity. I look forward to continuing our work together and supporting a union culture where every member feels heard, respected, and connected.

Local 1301 Secretary

Roshunda Coleman

I am Roshunda Coleman, and I am overjoyed to accept this nomination. I want to first say that I come from a Union family. Growing up in Illinois My siblings and I would accompany our father to different union events. I have been a union member since I started working for the state and have been a member of MAPE of the past 9 years and have held the secretary position since the year 2020. I believe in having a strong union to have a voice for members and dedicated to doing my best as an officer and member to ensure members voices are heard as well as build membership.

Local 1302

Local 1302 President

Maryam Abdulahi

With a background in education and student advocacy, I have built my career around listening to others, advocating for their needs, and helping create supportive environments where people can succeed. My experience working with diverse communities and collaborating across departments has strengthened my communication, problem-solving, and leadership skills. I am running for union president because I want to bring those skills to our union and make sure every member feels heard, respected, and represented. I am committed to being an approachable and collaborative leader who listens to our members and works together to move our union

forward.

Local 1302 Vice President

Elizabeth Fontaine

I'm happy to support MAPE activities in 1302 in this role as Vice President.

Local 1302 Secretary

Adam Gillard

I support my local with my skills of organizing meetings especially hybrid.

Local 1302 Treasurer

Francisco Salinas-Vega

I have background on financial accounting and applied economics. I am happy to serve as local treasurer for Local 1302. I look forward to continuing growing our MAPE association and giving back to our community. I have been MAPE member since 2014 and so happy to see how we work together.

Local 1303

Local 1303 President

Angie Halseth

To be completely honest and transparent, I am really not seeking this office. I was hoping for a break from MAPE for awhile. But I care about this local and if they need a leader I will step into this role with the goal of finding a replacement as I am retiring within 2 years. I will do my best to build this local back up to it's former power and develop leaders to follow behind me.

Local 1303 Membership Secretary

Keith Halseth

Ugh, who's Idea was this? Making me do this? This is not supposed to feel like work. If someone else wants to do this, they can have it. I'm just trying to help out, and others have to make things difficult. I was asked to do this because nobody else would, not that I volunteered. If you want someone else to do it, that is fine by me but would feel badly leaving my local with nobody supporting the rest of the team because this position is

vacant. Whatever, whatever

Local 1303 Secretary

Vee Yang

I want to become a MAPE Union Secretary because I genuinely care about our members and believe that everyone deserves to have a voice, to be heard, and to be treated with fairness and respect. I believe a strong union is built on trust, open communication, and a shared commitment to supporting one another.

One of my main reasons for wanting to serve in this role is to help ensure that our members feel informed, supported, and included. I believe it is important for employees to understand their rights, have access to important information, and know that their concerns matter. I want to help strengthen communication between union leadership and members so that everyone has the opportunity to participate and feel connected to our union.

Local 1303 Treasurer

Uyanga Bayandalai

I am running for MAPE Local 1303 Treasurer in the Fall 2026 election because I want to help ensure our local's resources are managed responsibly and used to support our members.

As Treasurer, I would prioritize accurate financial records, clear reporting, and thoughtful budgeting. Members deserve to understand how their dues are spent and to have confidence that financial decisions reflect our local's needs and priorities.
I would work closely with our local officers, listen to members' questions and concerns, and support activities that strengthen member participation and our collective voice. I would approach this responsibility with care, integrity, and a commitment to learning and following MAPE's financial procedures.

Thank you for your consideration and your vote.

Local 1304

Local 1304 President

Jenny McDougal

My name is Jenny McDougal, and I work in the Registrar's Office at Minneapolis College. I have been a state employee and proud MAPE member since 2018. During that time, I have actively served our local as both a steward and a member of the Meet &

Confer team, advocating for workplace rights, safety, and employee well-being.

In 2022, I was appointed Vice President, and in 2023, I assumed the role of Local President. It has been a privilege to serve in this position, and I am glad to accept the nomination to continue leading Local 1304 for another term.

The strength and integrity of our democratic union are deeply important to me. A successful local depends not only on effective leadership today but also on developing the leaders who will guide us in the future. Over the next three years, my priorities will be succession planning, membership growth, and steward recruitment. I remain fully committed to leading and supporting Local 1304, and I am equally dedicated to mentoring current leaders and cultivating strong union advocates in our local.

If re-elected, I will focus on creating meaningful opportunities for member engagement through in-person meetings, events, and other ways to connect and participate in our local. I will also continue working to strengthen and grow our membership. My goal is to ensure that, when my term concludes, Local 1304 is supported by a strong, knowledgeable, and well-prepared leadership team ready to carry our work forward.

Local 1304 Vice President

Lukas Sauer

I have been a state employee and member of MAPE for over six years. Additionally, I have been our locals Vice President for the last couple of years as well as a steward. I would be honored to be Local 1304's vice president for another term.

1304 is a fantastic local and we have many great members. I think it's important to build connections and community to support each other and to be the best public servants we can be.

Local 1304 Membership Secretary

Kayla Devorak

As Local Membership Secretary, I commit to working to improve members' interactions with the union by creating a variety of ways for members to engage at the local level. I will also continue to strive to bring more individuals into the local through in-person meetings, member events, and engaging with all MAPE represented employees at 1304. I look forward to continuing to build the strength of Local 1304 which helps build MAPE's overall strength.

Local 1304 Secretary

Anni Bowers

I am currently the Admissions Advisor for Community Engagement in the Office of Admissions at Minneapolis College. Previously I was the International Student Advisor starting in 2017. I have served in MAPE leadership previously as the Membership Secretary (2017-2019) and more recently as the Local Secretary for a little less than a year. I have attended several lobby days and recently joined the 1304 Contract Action Team. I'd be more than happy to continue serving as the 1304 Local Secretary and look forward to a productive negotiation year!

Local 1304 Treasurer

Jeffrey Snyder

My name is Jeff Snyder, and I've been a part of MAPE for the entirety of my almost 4 years working in the Records Department at Minneapolis College. I've been a steward for 1304 for the last year, and if elected will be delighted to continue to support my local's needs to the best of my abilities as Treasurer.

Local 1501

Local 1501 President

Brent Mason

My name is Brent Mason and I am proud to have been nominated to be a candidate for Local 1501 President. I have been a state employee at DNR for 10 years and a Steward in local 1501 for the last 7 years. I am also currently serving as an At Large Negotiator for the 2027-2029 contract cycle. I believe firmly that we need a strong and engaged Union to win the best contract possible for our members. As Local 1501 President I would seek to increase membership drives to grow our membership percentages in Local 1501. I would also work with other local leaders to coordinate and plan engagement events across area. I have been and will continue working with other leaders across the state to prepare members to fight for fair contracts now, and into the future.

State wages have not kept pace with inflation for decades, healthcare premiums continue to increase, and members in some positions continue to be forced to work long hours without adequate time off or compensation. We need organized and engaged membership to push management and force change in these areas. As Local 1501 President, I would be honored to lead that effort.

Thank you,
Brent Mason

Local 1501 Vice President

Jaime Thibodeaux

I look forward to serving you, elevating our organizing, elevating our rural perspectives with statewide leadership, and generating excitement around collective action for labor-focused issues.

Local 1501 Membership Secretary

Ara Gallo

Having been involved in MAPE since starting state service, and organizing my previous work place, I believe in the work that MAPE does to better the lives of state employees. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve as Membership Secretary for 1501, and continue working to make all of our lives better.

Local 1501 Secretary

Maryhelen Chadwick

I am interested in supporting efforts on behalf of workers in MAPE 1501. I am still learning about MAPE operations and priorities, but I am happy to serve however I can.

Local 1502

Local 1502 President

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 eight years and a MAPE member since I started. Since 2022, I have served as Local 1502 President and prior to that as Local Secretary. I try my best to keep our members informed of MAPE activities at all levels and encourage participation in our union.

My goals for the next term include increasing membership and engagement, planning more events throughout our large Local, and as always, to be a helpful resource for members. I think it is critical to get to know our fellow MAPE co-workers as people and learn how to support each other, especially as we begin negotiations for our next contract.

Local 1701

Local 1701 President

Peter Braith

I will continue to represent the members of 1701 at my fullest and ask proper questions to advocate for greater Minnesota.

Local 1701 Secretary

Taylor Courier

I have served as the local secretary for the last two years and would like to continue to serve our local.

Local 1701 Treasurer

Rachel Nynas

I accept this nomination to continue to be the treasurer.

Local 1801 (Special)

Local 1801 Membership Secretary

Alexander Grabowska

Unions matter for many reasons, but one of the most essential is that they help balance power between employers and employees. Having worked in nonunionized positions, options to hold employers accountable for their actions quickly diminish when those employers and their managers simply decline to take action—no matter how egregious the circumstances. For affected employees to get some measure of justice in these situations, they must begin looking at either leaving or pursuing legal action—both of which often require access to substantial resources: financial, emotional, time, and more. Given that we are investing roughly a third of our lives into our work and associated workplaces, I believe that we deserve the same that is expected of us: accountability, consistency, transparency, collaboration, and compassion. I want to serve as Membership Secretary for Local 1801 because I want to do my part to support the organization that advocates for me, advocates for us, and advocates for Minnesota. I want to ensure that all that are represented by MAPE have the resources and knowledge they need to sustainably navigate their workplaces. I will work to be a compassionate collaborator and as someone who supports our represented employees in advocating for themselves and the organization that represents them. I am grateful for this opportunity, and I will work to honor the responsibilities it carries.

Local 1901

Local 1901 Vice President

Nicole Weber

I'm Nicole Weber and I look forward to the opportunity to be more involved and contribute more to our local 1901.

Local 1901 Treasurer

Nicki Buechner

I have been in MAPE since 2016, a steward since 2020, and local 1901 Treasurer since 2022. I would love to continue to do the treasurer position this coming term.

Local 1902

Local 1902 President

Chandra Petersen

Hello! I am currently the president of 1902 and running for my second term. I am a Vocational Counselor with Vocational Rehabilitation Services, part of DEED. I am running for president again to continue the work we have been doing in 1902 to build connections and strengthen our steward network.

Local 1902 Vice President

Abbey Lane

As a MAPE member since my first day of employment with MinnState, I have proudly served our local in several leadership roles during the past three years, including Vice President, Steward, and SCC Meet & Confer Chair. These experiences have strengthened my commitment to advocating for our members and ensuring their voices are represented.

I believe in transparent communication, member engagement, and collaborative leadership. If reelected, I will continue working to support our members, strengthen our local, and advocate for a fair and respectful workplace for all.

Thank you for your support and consideration. I would be honored to continue serving as your Vice President.

Local 1902 Membership Secretary

Sarah McDonald

I'm interested in serving as Membership Secretary because I grew up in a union household, and I've seen firsthand how collective strength and representation can change people's lives, empower workers, and strengthen communities. Those early experiences taught me the value of being connected, informed, and supported, as well as how important it is that every member feels seen and heard. In this role, I want to help strengthen our engagement by keeping our membership information accurate and our outreach welcoming and intentional. My goal is to make sure every member feels they have a place in shaping our union's direction.

Local 1902 Treasurer

Bryan Johnson

My belief in the power of unity drives my commitment to public service and championing of collective bargaining. As a team player, I thrive on collaboration and value diverse perspectives. I am dedicated to making a positive impact and believe that together, we can achieve remarkable outcomes.

Local 1903

Local 1903 President

Daniel Besser

I currently have been the 1903 President for the past 4.5 years. Previously I served as the Membership Secretary and the Secretary. I welcome all ideas for our small local.

Local 1903 Treasurer

Jason Starkson

I have been a union member for 18 plus years and believe in the services provided by MAPE. I was asked to step in at local treasurer a while back and would like to remain in that position if 1903 feels I am the best fit.

Local 2001 (Special)

Local 2001 Treasurer

Shannon Sullivan

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Local 2001 Treasurer. I am grateful for the nomination, and excited to help in this capacity. I am committed to managing the finances responsibly and ensuring we continue to strengthen and grow. Thank you for your support and consideration.

Local 2101

Local 2101 President

JD DeLaune

I am a data professional on the Research and Evaluation Team in the Department of Human Services. I've been proud to serve as Local 2101 President since January 2026 and Vice President from October 2025 to January 2026. My work in MAPE draws on 15+ years of experience in the Twin Cities labor movement, including past membership in two other unions, work on several new organizing campaigns, leadership of multi-year member engagement projects, and work with the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation and MN AFL-CIO.

As Vice President and President of Local 2101, I have worked with our leadership team to:

- organize Lunch & Learn sessions to inform and organize our members
- recruit new members, member leaders, and union activists
- improve our local's technology infrastructure
- increase opportunities for member participation in local membership meetings
- work with our steward team to enforce our contract
- improve communication and collaboration for our leadership team
- provide support and resources for other local leaders to develop projects that grow our union
- advocate for our members' rights and dignity at work in communications with management and the public

I ask for your support to continue as your Local President. My goals over the next two years will be to:

1. Continue our work to improve our local's budgeting and finance practices, and facilitate democratic decision-making of our membership on how to use our funds.
2. Support our Contract Action Team members, Negotiator, and Membership Secretary to build a strong, engaged membership who is fully prepared to take

actions small or large to win a good, fair contract. Being prepared to strike is the best way to avoid having to strike.

3. Continue to improve our leadership recruitment and development practices, ensuring that our MNIT members have proportionate representation on our local leadership team.

Solidarity forever!

Local 2101 Vice President

Sage Leis

My name is Sage Leis and I am running to be Vice President of Local 2101. I currently serve as the local's Vice President, on the DHS Meet and Confer Committee, and am an LCAT. As we approach a new contract negotiation season and a new administration, it is more important than ever to have strong leadership willing to fight for state workers' rights while being available and accountable to membership. If elected, I promise to be guided by these principles of courage and accountability.

Local 2101 Membership Secretary

Lauren Siegel

I am honored to be nominated for Local 2101's Membership Secretary position. I have been leading membership recruitment and engagement initiatives for MAPE since 2017, first serving as 2101 Membership Secretary and then moving to the statewide Organizing Council where I served as the vice-chair followed by the chair. 2101 is the largest local in our union, which requires a whole team of dedicated members reaching out to potential members. As your membership secretary, I will lead initiatives to increase our membership and improve engagement among our members. I will have membership conversations, but I will also focus on mentoring and supporting other members to do the important work of recruiting and engaging members. We have a lot of talented members in our local and I love supporting them to do the work that interests them and that utilizes their skills. I'd love to see others leading parts of this work and even taking my spot as Membership Secretary one day.