**Region 11 - Director Candidates**

**Ilyas Ali**

When we center members, we democratize the union and grow our power. MAPE’s Board of Directors is the main governance body which ensures our union has financial resources, oversight, and strategic direction to strengthen our union and keep our members at the center of everything we do.

Diversity in our board of directors is key to that centering of our members. The experiences and barriers I have faced throughout my life, combined with my business degree and professional experience, have formed strong values of advocacy, hard work, and tireless optimism while facing conflict. It has also provided me with a wider perspective and better understanding of life, as well as illuminated the path forward on members’ goals. I believe in offering and keeping a non-negotiable standard of quality and service and commit to upholding these values and standards as your representative.

Together, we as MAPE members have a real opportunity to rise to the moment and use our collective strength to advocate for a better Minnesota that lifts up all working people. In region 11, we are fortunate to have some of the most intelligent and resourceful members working towards these noble goals, and I ask for your vote to give me the privilege of representing your voices on MAPE’s Board of Directors.

**Jessica Raptis**

My name is Jessica Raptis, and I would like to continue as your Regional Director for MAPE. I have served on the Board of Directors representing your best interests since August of 2018. I have been active as the co-chair of the DA planning committee, chair of the scholarship committee, and was a member of the board development subgroup.

I have attended organizing training through MAPE with IAF. In addition, I am an active steward and serve as the vice chair of the DOC Statewide Meet and Confer team. These positions provide me with the knowledge of issues occurring within our agencies, and with that knowledge I can better represent membership. This past year I was awarded the Betty Rodgers award for union achievement. Before serving as your director, I served as the secretary for Local 1101. Before MAPE, I was a member of AFSCME at the Oak Park Heights prison and spent a great deal of time down at the Capitol meeting with legislators and attending hearings.

I have been committed to holding ourselves accountable as leaders and ensuring we are fiscally responsible with membership dues. I believe all members should have a voice, and it is imperative that our Board of Directors acts under the direction of membership and is transparent. Just as I believe we need to hold the State of Minnesota as an employer accountable, I am also committed to ensuring we are a fair and supportive employer to our MAPE staff. It is critically important to ensure that not only the state, but also our union demands equality, inclusion and accessibility for all of our members and staff.

Thank you for allowing me to be your director. I hope to have the opportunity to continue to serve as your representative on the board of directors!