**Region 13 - Director Candidates**

**Lois Tucke**

My name is Lois Tucke and I have worked for the Department of Corrections for 26 years. Before that I was with Minnesota State School for the Deaf.

I have been an active member of MAPE since 2007. During my time, I served as Local Steward for 13 years, Local Vice President and Local President before being elected as Regional Director.  In addition, I’m a member of the Local and Statewide Meet and Confer DOC team, and the MAPE Hiring Committee.

During my time with MAPE, I have attended IAF and MAPE leadership trainings; campaigned for paid paternity leave; developed MAPE leaders; helped MAPE navigate uncertainty with the ‘Janus’ decision; supported supplemental bargaining addressing budgetary shortfalls and continue to advocate for member professional development. My time on the Board of Directors truly has been and ongoing learning experience and has provided me with a great understanding of all aspects of our organization.

This past year has been difficult as we have learned how to navigate our world with COVID-19. I will continue to support our members by working with State leaders to ensure that our members are able to provide services to the residents of Minnesota in a safe manner, while prioritizing the needs of our families.

My passion is ensuring our Members are heard, and that Members are involved in collaborative and inclusive decision making. It is crucial, as Union leaders, we communicate with members, build genuine relationships, strengthen our Union, and that we hold ourselves accountable and transparent to our membership. I will continue representing the needs and desires of our Union members. I want MAPE to be known for our significant accomplishments – the ones we identify together.

It is my hope that you allow me the opportunity to continue to represent the great Members of Region 13.

**Nancy Torres**

I am Nancy Torres. I am social worker at Anoka Metro Regional Treatment Center. I grew up in Texas with nonunion family. I viewed the struggles my father had with his employment, worked long hours, limited benefits. Acknowledging my own culture as an obstacle I decided to become a social worker to help someone who faced same challenges as my family. My daughter a college student and my son graduating from high school, I understand why it is important to always advocate so my children could also have an opportunity.

During crises like the COVID pandemic, we need union leaders to keep us informed and listen to what we need when our lives are suddenly upended. We need leaders to communicate with us, and to hear our needs. As a leader with DHS Statewide Meet and Confer and as Vice President and Steward in Local 1301, I know the importance of meeting with members about their hopes and fears and moving forward by working together on solutions. I have united with union leaders AFSCME and MNA to work with helping our shared communities and workplaces stay connected to one another.

I believe it is our duty as MAPE members foster safe and equitable working environments, respect our differences, lend a helping hand to those in need and value each other as we serve a better Minnesota. I will advocate for a transition back to the workplace that will keep us strong as a union and safe as a community. It is time we take control and support each other, not just as our workplace changes, but as our whole society changes.

I pledge to be a responsive Regional Director who will listen to you. I will bring your input to the Board of Directors. I humbly ask for your support.