**Statewide Vice President Candidates**

**Angela Halseth**

In our union, the VP has the privilege of being back-up to the President and they lead the contract enforcement teams while working to ensure resources are available to defend our contract. Contract enforcement is a central, vital function of labor unions. Building member power to enforce that contract is essential.

I am Angela Halseth and I’d like to be your Statewide VP. For the past 21 years I’ve been a DOC employee - currently a Caseworker at MCF-Lino Lakes.

Throughout my career I’ve been actively involved in labor and believe unions are essential to lifting and uniting the working class. My union resume includes:

* Region 13 Chief Steward – Three years defending our contract
* President of Local 1303 - Bringing together multiple agencies and diverse members
* Chair, DOC Meet and Confer - Diplomatically advocating for members with management
* IAF Training - Advanced my education in union organizing
* Planned and implemented MAPE’s first Steward Summit

My time spent as Chief Steward and Chair of the DOC Statewide Meet and Confer team has taught me how to hold our employer accountable, and I plan to ensure that I carry over that work to my position as VP to also hold our leaders in MAPE accountable to membership.

Thank you for taking time to read my statement. I humbly ask for your vote to become MAPE’s Vice President.

As Vice President, I commit to:

* actively engage with and support our stewards and chief stewards,
* prioritize steward development and training to ensure stewards have the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively represent members, and
* ensure MAPE is inclusive to all members regardless of their positions, agencies, and personal beliefs. Because part of a labor union is being inclusive and giving all members a space to have open, honest, respectful conversations, even when we disagree.

**Ken Rodgers**

My name is Ken Rodgers. I work for the Department of Transportation in St. Paul and have been a state employee and MAPE member for 11 years. I have served my local by being an active Board member serving as the Parliamentarian. I have also served as a steward and have been sought out to consult on several complex situations by other stewards. I served on the Statewide Diversity Committee (formerly Affirmative Action Committee) leading the development and implementation of training opportunities for stewards. I’ve presented information about ADA/FMLA at the last Steward Summit.

Supporting and growing skills important to becoming a stronger and more competent steward is a skillset I am confident I can bring to this role. Building meaningful opportunities to develop stronger and more confident MAPE members in their roles as stewards, is a strategy that will add value to our members individual lives but will also add strength to our union.

I follow an organization called Labor Notes, an organization of rank and file members of unions all over the world. One of their strategies is the “horizontal exchange” among labor activists by holding bi-annual conventions. While I personally learned a great deal of valuable information attending last year’s virtual event, I realized sharing the concept of “horizontal exchange” and by using some of their resources could serve as a model to help build a stronger MAPE. If elected as statewide Vice President I plan on creating and offering opportunities for MAPE stewards to come together and to learn from one another. Successfully supporting our members is one of the most important services we can provide. My goal as Statewide VP will be to do all I can do to elevate the skills and confidence of our stewards across the state.