

## **AMENDED**

### **Vancouver and District Area Council General Meeting – April 25, 2017**

#### **In Attendance:**

Jamey Mills (UTE 20027), Todd Smith (AGR 20044), Jennifer Horsley (UPCE 20095), Crystal Isaac (UTE 20027), Danielle Criblez (UTE 20027), Rita Gill (UTE 20027), Marion McLarty (UNE 20150), Sky Belt (AGR 20044), Tami Grenon (MHRC Rep) via phone, Bob Jackson (REVP), Monica Urrutia (Staff)

#### **Regrets:**

Aaron Chang, Shane Polak, Kelly Megyesi

#### **Meeting Called to Order at 5:35 PM**

#### **Agenda:**

- Moment of Silence for Sharon Tieman
- Ratify March 14/17 & April 5/17 email motions
- Business arising
  - Report on progress of Annual plan
  - Provincial Election
- Affiliate Reports
- Treasurer's Report
- New Business
  - Shoebox Project – Kelly M
  - April 29 march for Jobs, Justice & the Climate
  - May 1 – May Day
- Convention Raffle Basket (\$150.00)
- Round Table
- Next Meetings – Need 2 more before October 28, 2017

To open the meeting Jamey called for a Moment of Silence for Sharon Tieman who succumbed to a lengthy illness, as well as workers killed and injured on the job.

#### **Email Motions – (M/S/C) Jamey/Jen**

March 14, 2017 email motion:

We have an opportunity to support Bowinn Ma, a PSAC member running for the NDP in North Vancouver-Lonsdale, at an upcoming fundraiser.

I have spoken to the REVPs office on cost sharing sponsorship of \$1500 (we would pay \$500). Before we commit to this level though I want to ensure we have 8 members who can attend at 530pm on 05APR2017...otherwise we may just buy a few tickets.

The motion is to spend \$500 from political action. I require a second and your vote. Please reply promptly.

April 4, 2017 email Motion

You're invited to march alongside many community partners and fellow unionists in support of good green jobs, justice for minorities and exploited peoples, and the protection of the environment. This is an excellent opportunity to network with other activists in our community and build solidarity which is more important than ever with the global political winds of change moving to the right.

Please RSVP by email to Todd Smith at [twmsmith@gmail.com](mailto:twmsmith@gmail.com) so we bring enough PSAC flags. Family and friends welcome.

Date: Saturday April 29, 2017

Time: 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Place: Science World - 1455 Quebec Street, Vancouver, BC (near Main Street Skytrain Station)

Motion:

Todd Smith is putting forward a motion (seconded by Jamey Mills) to donate \$100 to the organizers of this event to help cover some of the organizing costs. Please vote via reply email.

**Business Arising:**

May Day – May 1, VDLC supported event. Starting at the Maritime Labour Centre this year, marching to Grandview Park. Great event that attracts Unions, Anarchists, International Workers Union. We would like to see members come out to this event. Starts at 5PM.

June NPSW – the Softball Tournament

In the past few years it has brought together 100-200 members from various PSAC components. We won't be able to hold it during NPSW this year, logistically doesn't work, as PSAC BC Convention is on the weekend following NPSW. Thinking we could move it to the summer, maybe combine with the Area Council BBQ and hold on a Friday in July or August.

Canada Day – might be a good idea to find an event for the Area Council to participate in for the 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Canada, consider having an information booth if the City of Vancouver has a large event.

Bargaining – most bargaining is complete, Parks and Customs and Agriculture are still at the table.

Pride – traditionally the Area Council participates in this event that takes place on the August long weekend. Fun event to walk in or staff the table.

Labour Day – September, BC Fed supported, been having some larger bands the past few years.

Summer BBQ – July or August, maybe tie to the Baseball Tournament

Vaisaki – Kelly Sidhu had a table there, very short notice so didn't have a lot of materials there, but a good place to consider for next year

Khatsalano Days – August, Marion will look into it some more

Folk Festival – do we still want to try to do this, the members who volunteered to look into this are not in attendance, will need to connect with them to find out more info

Bob Jackson asked about Car Free days, but they fall on the weekend of Convention this year, so maybe not this year, but keep it on the radar for other years.

Jamey thanked Bob for all the support he has provided over his 2 terms as REVP, this will be the Area Council's last meeting before Bob retires in June. Jamey turned the chair over to Bob to speak.

Bob Jackson:

It has been challenging to get people out to Area Council meetings across the region, really glad to see new faces at this meeting. This council represents 1000s of members.

Ratification – Collective Bargaining has been a long process, as I'm sure the UTE members are aware, we always try to improve the process, we come prepared to bargain, but end up being stalled by the Treasury Board. We need to concentrate on talking to our MPs about the process and the issues at hand, make bargaining a priority for them as well. We need to meet with our MPs about the issues, right now Phoenix and Collective Bargaining.

We don't take advantage of meeting MPs nearly enough, it is a Constitutional Right that we need to use more often. We need to hold our elected officials accountable. Area Councils need to renew their commitment to meet with MPs.

Our negotiations didn't produce as much as they could have, not much in the way of monetary gains, but we did make gains in Work Force Adjustment and were able to protect Sick Leave.

All locals should have a Standing Committee on Collective Bargaining, it should be ongoing, rather than waiting for the call out for bargaining demands. This committee and all Locals should know the deficiencies and grievances on articles, it should be an ongoing process.

The grassroots need to be a part of the process.

The Ratification Votes produced the expected results, now it's up to the Treasury Board to set the meeting to sign the Collective Agreements. The provisions and retroactivity take effect once the agreements are signed.

The Re-Opener clause will kick in for the UTE agreement with the monetary gains that will take effect in the Treasury Board agreements once they are ratified.

The AEC will have a debrief on the process as well as within the region. Some of the feedback was that there needs to be a review of the Voting Process that is laid out in Regulation 15. We are going in the direction of Electronic Voting, a process that was piloted through the CFIA ratification in the last round. The realization is that it will be harder to implement with Treasury Board ratification, have to work out the process for multiple employer tables.

BC Election – still Bob Jackson

There are 2 PSAC candidates running for the BC NDP, Bowinn Ma and Janet Routledge. Janet participated in the recent Telephone Town Hall held by PSAC BC and found it a very effective way to reach out. Sargy Chima is running in Surrey/Whalley for the BC Liberals, Bob wished her well in her

campaign, but had to let her know that the PSAC/House of Labour would not be supporting her campaign because of the party she is running with.

The BC Liberals have weakened the position of working people in this province. It is time for a change, a new era for working people in BC.

Bob thanked the Area Council for allowing him to sit in with us and asked for questions from the floor. Seeing none, he turned the chair back over to Jamey.

Jamey followed up with his own comments on some of Bob's speaking points.

On Electronic Voting – it is easy, yes, but having members come into a meeting allows the bargaining team to meet with members and get fence-sitters to make a choice based on the information that can be provided at a meeting and the interaction and opportunities to answer questions.

On the Provincial Election – the Telephone Town Hall was very successful, had seven hundred to 1000 members on at certain points of the call. The MVA Provincial Accountability Assembly was also a successful exposure to the issues of this election. Christy Clark didn't come out for this event, but the other leaders, John Horgan and Andrew Weaver did. John Horgan made a clear commitment to working with the MVA on all of the issues that were introduced. Andrew Weaver didn't fully commit to work on the issues with the MVA, but did not say he wouldn't work with them either. Approximately 800 people attended the Assembly representing religious organizations, labour and community groups. On a personal note, Jamey actually had members of his own local come to him after who were there with different group affiliations, ie not there representing their union, but other affiliations.

The ridings the Bowinn and Janet are running in are considered "battleground" ridings, they were very close last election, could be taken by these candidates, please consider helping out on their campaigns, volunteering. The PSAC has committed funding to both of their campaigns.

They are looking for volunteers for E-day, May 9<sup>th</sup>.

The most important thing that any of us can do is get out and VOTE. Talk to your friends, family, co-workers about the importance of voting, of participating in democracy.

There is an opportunity with this election to make a significant change in this province.

Sky shared that she has been on a few round table discussions with John Horgan, but also been on the news. She was approached by her Director at work about the possibility of her participation in this way being in violation of the Conflict of Interest Agreement. Make sure you know your political rights. You can't speak representing your employer, but you are allowed to participate in the political process. You are allowed to personally be in favor of any party. As a counter to this meeting with her director, Sky, as part of her local executive, sent out information about our Political Rights.

Bob advised that Sky should go further up the Union chain to let her leaders know that she had experienced this from her director.

Monica reminded the members that Advance Voting starts on the weekend following the meeting.

Jamey then spoke to the Resolutions to Convention that the Area Council submitted. They were received in good order, except the 2<sup>nd</sup> be it resolved of the Racially Visible Leadership Education resolution, which was ruled out of order by the National President because it directed the disposition of staff.

### **Affiliate Reports**

UPCE 20095 – The Teamsters very nearly went on Strike at Purolator at the beginning of April, a last minute return to the table averted strike action, which would have negatively impacted the UPCE members at Purolator, there would have been no work if there was no one to move the packages. UPCE 20095 would like to thank Bob Jackson for his generous support during this trying time, especially for offering to go to the main job site in Richmond had strike action gone forward. The cutting of hours and attacks on full-time positions continues, making working at Purolator more and more precarious. Another store will be closing in June.

No other written reports were received.

Out of the Affiliate reports, came a discussion of possibly holding a Phoenix protest, maybe set up a meeting at an MP's office so that we know the MP is there, then hold a protest with members showing up at the MP's office. Also, out of affiliate reports, Bob let the membership know that any Phoenix issues should be reported to the REVPs office and nationally to your Component, especially if the issues are not being resolved. Keep records of issues, check your pay every pay period and keep on top of it.

Bob Jackson had to leave at 6:35 PM.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Jamey gave the report as Aaron was not able to attend the meeting:

Chequing account balance 2017-04-07: \$1893.38

Term deposit: \$2736.98

2017 YTD expenses:

Cheque 136: \$49.71 for resolutions meeting

Cheque 137: \$169.75 for VAC meeting

Cheque 138: \$100 for donation to BC poverty reduction coalition (not yet cleared)

Dues received from:

UVA 20045

AGU 20060

UCTE 20219

CEIU 20938

UTE 20027

Total dues deposited to date: \$601.50

\$1000 cheque for reimbursement for labour appreciation June 2016 received on 2017-02-16, deposited on 2017-02-24

Dues received after the report from UPCE 20095, as well as cheque from Jennifer Horsley for overpayment in 2016.

Jamey asked that the locals that participate in the Area Council provide dues if they can. While it is not required under the Constitution, it is what allows us to operate and participate more fully as a political body of the union. Dues are 50 cents /member/year.

### **New Business**

Jennifer talked about the Shoebox project which the Vancouver Regional Women's Committee has adopted as their community outreach project for the year. Kelly has asked for funding from the Area Council.

Motion: (M/S/C) Jennifer/Sky – passed unanimously

The Vancouver Area Council will donate \$50.00 to the Vancouver Regional Women's Committee to support the Shoebox Project.

March for Jobs, Justice and Climate – April 29, 2017

Todd spoke about this event:

You're invited to march alongside many community partners and fellow unionists in support of good green jobs, justice for minorities and exploited peoples, and the protection of the environment. This is an excellent opportunity to network with other activists in our community and build solidarity which is more important than ever with the global political winds of change moving to the right.

Please RSVP by email to Todd Smith at [twmsmith@gmail.com](mailto:twmsmith@gmail.com) so we bring enough PSAC flags. Family and friends welcome.

Date: Saturday April 29, 2017

Time: 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Place: Science World - 1455 Quebec Street, Vancouver, BC (near Main Street Skytrain Station)

<http://psacbc.com/events/march-jobs-justice-climate-vancouver-canada>

From the organizers:

On April 29th we will be in the streets across Canada, in solidarity with the march in Washington, DC to show the world and our leaders that we will resist fossil fuel projects and policies that attack our people, our communities and our planet.

We will come together from across Canada to strengthen our movement and prepare for the struggles ahead. We will demonstrate our power and resistance in cities and towns across the country. We will bring our solutions to the climate crisis and the problems that affect our communities to our political leaders to demand Real Change, not broken promises and empty rhetoric.

We invite you to join the Peoples Climate Movement on Saturday, April 29th as we march to:

Advance solutions to the climate crisis that are rooted in racial, social and economic justice and committed to protecting front-line communities and workers.

Protect our right to clean air, water, land, healthy communities and a world at peace.

Demand recognition of Indigenous Sovereignty, respect for existing Treaties and the right of First Nations to Free, Prior and Informed Consent for all projects on their traditional and unceded territories.

Immediately take steps to support immigrants, refugees and communities of color and LGBTQ2I communities impacted by the attacks on them south of the border and by the dislocation caused by global climate change

Ensure public funds and investments create good paying green jobs that provide a family-sustaining wage and benefits and preserve workers' rights, including the right to unionize.

Fund investments in our communities, people and environment to transition to a new clean and renewable energy economy that works for all.

Protect our basic rights to a free press, protest and free speech

March with us on April 29th as we come together to resist and march for our families, our communities and our planet.

This event takes place on the traditional, unceded, occupied territories of the səilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations.

The PSAC will have flags available at this event. It is a very positive, uplifting atmosphere. Jamey thanked Todd for championing this.

May Day – reminder, the march starts at 5PM at the Maritime Labour Centre.

### **Convention Raffle Basket**

The Vancouver Area Council had a very successful basket at the last convention consisting of a Coach purse. What would we like to do this time? Discussion of possibilities included a FitBit, Alexander McQueen scarves, something union made or local.

Motion: (M/S/C) Jamey/Marion

The Area Council will spend upto \$150.00 from the Political Action line item for a raffle basket to the BC Regional Convention, the funds raised going to the Protein for People Project.

An AdHoc Committee was formed to research and purchase the item(s) for the basket of Sky and Rita.

## **Round Table**

Monica – Education – Grievance Handling coming up, no other courses being offered until the fall schedule comes out. Remember to speak to your Regional Reps about what courses your locals would like to see offered.

Todd – on Sunday there will be a rally at Riverview Hospital in Coquitlam to support developing the site into a modern Mental Health Facility, the Liberals are trying to sell it off for high-density housing.

Marion – Lives in Jody Wilson-Raybould's riding, can work on getting a meeting with her.

Sky – are funds available for postcards/banners/pins for rallies around Phoenix? She would like to be included in any rallies that we might organize around this. Jamey said they could check with National if there are any materials already available, could look into funding

Jamey – Announced that he is running for REVP at the upcoming convention. If he hasn't had an opportunity to talk to you yet, he would like the chance to talk to you about his candidacy.

## **Next Meetings**

We need to hold two more meetings before October 28 to be eligible to send a delegate to National Triennial Convention from the Area Council

Discussed holding a meeting in the last week of June (26-30) and then maybe in September.

Reminder that the Area Council does have a private Facebook page, contact Jamey if you would like to be added.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:03 PM