

Minutes

BRUSH October 4, 2006

Chair: Joy Hennen

In Attendance: Tom Gallagher (GSU), Diane McArthur (SSO), Wayne Little (UTE), Gail Jewsbury (UEW), Sam Weise (CEIU), Chuck Leech (USGE), Melvin Dureen (USGE), Kevin Mann (UCTE) and James Little (PSAC)

Agenda

1. Internal Memorandum
2. Union School
3. Recruiting New Members
4. Health and Safety Survey
5. 2007 National Health and Safety Conference / Resolutions
6. Report of the BC Regional Health and Safety Conference
7. WCB Teleclaims
8. Committee Membership
9. Round Table

1. Internal Memorandum

Joy Hennen (Health and Safety Representative on the BC Regional Council) and Nick Humphreys (National Officer Representative on the BC Regional Council) together issues a request of all National Officers in the BC Region to share with the BRUSH the minutes of both their components regional an national Joint Occupational Health and Safety (JOSH), and Policy Committee minutes. This request was issued in late 2005 and to date we have received no compliance. The BRUSH committee members realizes that in the field of Health and Safety we are often working in isolation from each other. We hoped that by reviewing the regional and national minutes we would be able to identify information pertinent to other components and arrange for sharing the information among our identified H&S Activists.

The BRUSH committee would like to rerequest this information and in addition to the national and regional minutes, we would like to include local JOSH minutes as well.

2. Union School

Joy asked if there was anyone interested in co-facilitating the Health and Safety Course at the upcoming Union School. Joy explained that anyone wishing to facilitate at the school should be a registered Alliance Facilitator (AF). Sam Weise (AF) and Gail Jewsbury both expressed an interest in co-facilitating the H&S course at the school. As a result of Sam's AF status she will be invited to co-facilitate with thanks to Gail for expressing an interest.

3. Recruiting New Members and Committee Membership

A challenge was issued to the members of the BRUSH committee. Each participating member was encouraged to identify other PSAC H&S Activists and then extend to them an invitation to join us at the next meeting of the BRUSH. The questions of who is eligible for committee membership, who are the current BRUSH members and what are the BRUSH terms of reference was asked.

Joy explained that the BRUSH was designed to drive the H&S program in the region and like Area Councils; the BRUSH was a forum to bring H&S activists throughout the region together to discuss H&S issues. The committee would be a platform for promoting H&S education and worksite training. The true objectives can be found in the Terms of Reference, which will be posted on the PSACBC website.

4. Health and Safety Survey

The purpose of the Health and Safety Survey was to identify new BRUSH members within the PSAC. We had about thirty responses and have identified a real desire for H&S education.

5. 2007 National Health and Safety Conference

The 2007 National H&S Conference will be held in Ottawa on the weekend of January 19 – 21, 2007. The delegate selection process will be based on the following formula. Each component will get seven delegates and each region will get seven delegates for a total of 168. The balance of 132 delegates will be selected by the components on a pro rata basis. Members will be notified of their acceptance sometime nearer the end of November 2006.

The BC Region will be submitting four resolutions for debate at the Conference. We had a discussion around the rationale for our resolutions and it was decided that they needed some minor changes before being recommended for acceptance by the Vancouver Area Council.

6. Report on Regional Health and Safety Conference

The report on the BC Regional H&S Conference has been completed and a DRAFT copy will be sent to the participants of this meeting for approval prior to distribution.

7. WCB Teleclaim

The Workers Compensation Board is now accepting claims over the phone and soon they will accept applications online. The BC Federation of Labour has tentatively endorsed the new procedures as anything that makes it easier for our members would be an improvement. The new procedures also come with an Employer Pay Principle, which allows employees to decide how they want to be paid. Either by their employer or direct from the WC Board.

8. Round Table

Diane McArthur - This was her first meeting. She will try to get her local H&S Officer to join us in the future. She emphasized the need to have her northern workers trained in H&S issues.

Wayne Little - We should use caution when advising our members to use WCB Teleclaim as they have experienced two problems already. Most importantly with regard to medical information.

Gail Jewsbury - She has concerns around the NJC and its lack of function on H&S issues. Additionally, she raised issues with the new Health Safety and Environment Management System (HSEMS) at Environment Canada and what would the new program at Environment Canada mean for the members.

Kevin Mann - We need to have a better definition of what Light Duties mean and who makes that determination.

Adjourned