

# Okanagan Area Council Meeting

## March 2nd, 2019

### Kelowna

**In Attendance:** Maria-Luiza Romano (AGR); Darrell-Lee McKenzie (AGR); Kelly Megyesi (CEIU); Karen Sutton (CIU); Linda Woods (UNE); Joanne Hay (UPCE); Nadia Sokal (AGR) Guests: Joy Harrison (APSAR), Robert Strang (PSAC BC Rep, Vancouver); by phone: Jeanne Olineck (CEIU); Kathy Horst (UPCE).

**Call to Order** at 9:35 am

**Adoption of Agenda** – adopted

**Approval of previous minutes:** minutes from January 19, 2019

- *Action item: NS to update minutes to include motion to affiliate with APSAR. NS will send amended minutes to members and BC regional office.*

#### **Bargaining updates**

- RS spoke about TB bargaining and encouraged ramped up political action.
- LW spoke about success in new UNE collective agreement and the arbitrator's decisions.
- MLR spoke about CFIA bargaining.

#### **May Day & Labour Day Events**

- May Day information letter details from South Okanagan and Boundary Labour Council (SOBLC) were shared (Appendix 1 attached to minutes).
- RS confirmed availability for May Day event and will bring the PSAC tent as well as other supplies similar to the last Labour Day event.
- Discussed holding the next AC & RWC meeting in Penticton after the event.
  - *Action item: DLM & NS to look into locations for a meeting on May 11th in Penticton*
  - *Motion by DLM: To participate and donate \$100 to each event (\$200 total).*  
Seconded: KM  
Carried
  - *Motion by DLM: To spend \$200 on kid's activity supplies and give-aways for May Day event (\$50 craft supplies for MLR, \$100 button making supplies KM and \$50 freezies).*  
Seconded: JH  
Carried

#### **Roles & Responsibilities of the Executive**

- A general discussion on this topic as there are new members taking on executive roles.
- Bottom line is we all help each other out.
- Suggested that new executive be copied on email correspondence to help facilitate training.
- Suggested that President sends meeting notice, agenda including request for RSVP to plan for snacks.
- Secretary sends minutes to all members in attendance, members that sent regrets as well as Robert Strang, Patrick Bragg and Kim Nguyen at PSAC regional office.
  - *Action Item: RS to send distribution list to MLR, NS, KS & LW.*
  - *Action Item: RS to look into having a consistent call in phone number that can be included in the agenda.*
- Discussed reporting procedure for votes on motions via email; to be included in next meetings minutes.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

- Presented by KM. The transition to 2019 is complete. The opening balance was \$3839.03. There were three transactions that were issued in 2019 but were for 2018 including:

- \$100 for Labour Day button supplies
- \$136.98 for calendars from the Workers History museum
- \$0.16 interest earned

- *Motion by KM: To move the treasurer's report*  
*Seconded by JH*  
*Carried*

### **Signing Authority**

- Discussed benefits of having an additional signer from ML's local who in order to have a "back up" signer for cheques. This expedites the issuing of cheques and is only used when another signing member of the AC is unavailable to sign in a timely manner.
- Discussed removing all historical signers at the bank.
- With the new elections in 2019 the banking will be updated to any two signatures from:
  - Maria-Luiza Romano (President)
  - Nadia Sokal (Vice President)
  - Kelly Megyesi (Treasurer)
  - Karen Sutton (Secretary)
  - Tova Wadsworth
- *Action Item: KM to start the process to change signing authorities. KM will be requesting online access.*

### **Business Cheques**

- *Motion by KM: To spend up to \$100 on business cheques.*  
*Seconded: NS*  
*Carried*

### **Projects from Past years**

- Discussed past events and history behind the formation of the area council to educate new members.
- Discussed having Kamloops Area Council participants to attend a meeting in-person in Kelowna, rather than over the phone.
- Discussed having occasional meetings where all in attendance are on the conference call, as it's easier to hear the discussion rather than when a group is on speaker-phone.
  - *Action Item: RS and geographic coordinator JO to organize a trip to provide outreach to small locals in our region, once the weather improves*

### **HEU Good Samaritan Demonstration (Appendix 2 attached to minutes)**

- NS received information via SOBLC and passed on details about a demonstration by HEU employees on March 4th.

### **WhatsApp**

- KM suggested we try the WhatsApp app for informal questions and discussion about Area Council.
  - *Action Item: KS to set up the group*

### **Meeting Adjourned at 11:06 AM**

**Next Meeting**  
**Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 2:30 p.m.**  
**Location TBD - Penticton**

**Appendix 1**  
**SOBLC Labour Day Letter**



February 21, 2019

Dear South Okanagan Boundary Labour Council Affiliate:

The South Okanagan Boundary Labour Council (SOBLC) will be hosting a May Day celebration “Working People in Our Community” at Gyro Park in Penticton on May 11, 2019 from 11a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be entertainment, kid’s zone, various community tables and food (served by our Penticton Fire Fighters). Please accept this letter as our invitation and request for your participation.

You are probably aware that too many people in our communities do not realize the valuable services that unionized workplaces provide. Therefore, we look forward to you taking this opportunity to come, host a table and celebrate with us working people, to promote your Local Union and promote solidarity within the labour movement.

Union flags, banners, buttons, free draws and “swag” are simple ways to grab the attention of participants. Please give this some thought, when setting up your union’s “booth”. Tables and chairs are available at Gyro Park, which will make your set-up easier, but you will need to provide your own tent.

In addition to your participation, SOBLC is also asking all affiliates to make a financial donation, to help offset the expenses needed to put on our celebration. Donations need to be payable to SOBLC and sent to 129 Nanaimo Avenue. West, Penticton, BC, V2A 1N2, attention José Van Berkel, our treasurer.

Primarily, this is about your participation, so please help make our event a success. Again, the venue is Gyro Park in Penticton, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday May 11th. If you have any questions about the event, please contact Tammy Carter at [secretarysoblc@gmail.com](mailto:secretarysoblc@gmail.com)  
We look forward to your participation on May 11<sup>th</sup>, please RSVP to Tammy Carter on or before April 6<sup>th</sup> so we can plan accordingly.

Look forward to hearing from you soon.

In Solidarity,

Tammy Carter  
Secretary  
South Okanagan Boundary Labour Council  
250-462-3343 [secretarysoblc@gmail.com](mailto:secretarysoblc@gmail.com)

## Appendix 2

### HEU Good Samaritan Demonstration - Additional Information

**Subject:** Fwd: Village By The Station

Good Morning Everyone,  
A message below from Cheryl Wright - HEU - Good Samaritan - Village by the Station. If you can make it that would be great.

I wanted to personally send out an invite to labor Council to attend our Street Side Demonstration in Penticton . We've been working without a contract for almost one year now and Members are depleted and ready for action, our message to the employer , Good Samaritan Canada, is QUALITY CARING CONDITIONS DEMAND QUALITY WORKING CONDITIONS .”

All GSC sites will be having a demonstration on [March 4](#) except for the New Westminster site who will be having theirs on [March 5](#).

Members here are facing daily workload crisis and staffing shortages and this is an opportunity for everyone to show the employer that we want a fair contract.

Our demonstration is [March 4](#) from 1:30-2:30 on Duncan Ave. I'm really hoping for a good turn out !!!

Thank you for your time :)

Cheryl Wright  
Local Chairperson  
Village By The Station