

Okanagan Area Council Meeting

September 2nd, 2019

Kelowna

In Attendance: Maria-Luiza Romano (AGR 20027); Kelly Megyesi (CEIU 20972); Linda Woods (UNE 20140); Lorelei Sterling (UVAE 20035); Nadia Sokal (AGR 20043) Guests: Robert Strang (PSAC BC Rep, Vancouver); by phone: Carolyn McGilivray (CIU 20045) Regrets: Darrell-Lee McKenzie (AGR); Jeanne Olineck (CEIU); Karen Sutton (CIU);

Chaired by MLR and NS

Call to Order at 4:50 PM

Adoption of Agenda - adopted with addition of two topics; Convention Delegates and Education

Approval of previous minutes:

- *Motion by KM to move the minutes from May 11, 2019.*
- Seconded by MLR
- Carried

Treasurer's Report

- Presented by KM. Balance as of May 1st was \$3,474.25, closing balance August 31 was \$3,636.79 (\$500 allocation deposited).
- We have spent \$800 so far.
- We were shorted our Regional allocation.
- There has not been a lot of action on this account thus far.
 - *Motion by KM to move the Treasurer's report*
 - Seconded by LW
 - Carried

Gas reimbursement

- Discussion of how our geographic area is not conducive to meeting at a central place convenient for all members.
- Discussed details about how a gas reimbursement would work with our three regional groups.
 - We encourage everyone to car pool when possible.
 - We will try to have one meeting over conference call or other meeting app (Whatsapp, Skype) per year.
 - We hope this will encourage people to attend meetings.
 - If multiple meetings or related events occur on the same day, only one reimbursement would be applicable.
 - Discussion about whether we have to follow PSAC travel directive, RS advised that this is not the case, our rates proposed below are less costly than PSAC travel rates.
- *Motion by KM to reimburse attendees as follows:*
 - *If you drive a vehicle to attend meetings between:*
 - *Oliver or Osoyoos and Penticton you may receive \$25 for the complete return trip*
 - *Penticton and Kelowna you may receive \$25 for the complete return trip*
 - *Kelowna and Vernon you may receive \$25 for the complete return trip*
 - *Vernon and Kamloops you may receive \$25 for the complete return trip*
 - *If you make multiple legs of this journey, reimbursement is additive (eg/ travel from Vernon to Penticton would be \$50 reimbursement)*
 - *This motion is effective as of today*
 - Seconded by CM
 - Carried

Dinner costs

- *Motion for OAC to pay for meal \$117.32 at Moxies by CM*
- Seconded by MLR
- Carried

Larger Membership Drawing Event in conjunction with Okanagan HR and RWC

this topic was also discussed during the HR Committee meeting

- NS had the opportunity to chat with Jamey Mills (PSAC BC REVP) at the AGR component seminar in June and mentioned that HR, RWC and OAC were discussing a membership drawing event and asked if he would be on board with financial help to make this happen. His response was positive and suggested for us to submit proposal.
- As per HR Committee KM proposed that we combine an education event with events that highlight our committees/council, for example; a Friday night mixer hosted by Area Council, Kairos Blanket exercise hosted by HR, Sunday morning breakfast hosted by RWC.
- CM brought up that some people may not be able to commit to the whole event and it was discussed that these “extras” added to the course would be optional.
- RS added that the extra events it would be inclusive of spouses and children, similar to how it was at the tour of St. Eugene residential school at the PSAC courses held in Cranbrook in May.
- Group discussed the need for “lighter” courses as the KAIROS blanket exercise is at least 3 hours in duration.
- Group discussed pros and cons of having the KAIROS blanket exercise prior to course material or afterwards. Majority of those in attendance thought that having the exercise in the afternoon with the evening to digest the experience was more favourable.
- As per the HR Committee meeting, the location of Spirit Ridge at Nk-Mip resort in Osoyoos and dates of February 28 to March 1st 2020 were proposed.
- Group discussed looking into other possibly less expensive options for this type of event in Penticton as well as Kamloops. It was decided that even though this location is not unionized, to support Indigenous initiatives and reconciliation that this location is the most suitable, even if it proves to be more costly.
- Group discussed that if this event is approved and a success, looking into other location like Kamloops could be an option for the future.
- KM has already made connections with a KAIROS blanket facilitator
- **Action Item: NS volunteered to begin writing a proposal, including contacting the resort for costs associated with the event .**
- Discussion about how many people could attend the courses and events. RS mentioned the cap on courses is 16 people including him. Group discussion around how we need more than 16 people to attend, as many of those participating are already involved in the three groups. If the purpose of this is to build membership in the regional committees/council, we need more participants to hopefully attract a few to start attend meetings.
- Group discussion around what other budget line items could be suggested to use for an event like this, other than Education, for example Political Action line item. Discussion on how if our proposal is denied, ask how we can make something like this work within PSAC BC region parameters and budget.

Past and potential actions for 2019 Federal Election

- NS asked what past actions were organized for federal elections.
- RS mentioned cold calling members either by phone or in person (door knocking), attending all candidates forums as a group and asking key questions, “polling cards” were previously available
- **Action item: NS to contact Patrick Bragg about polling cards and any other tools to use during the election**

Delegates for PSAC BC Regional Convention

- Confirmed that HR, RWC and OAC each can send 1 delegate, as well as every local
- **Action Item: All members will find out if they are eligible to attend convention through their local and/or whether their component will provide any funding. Everyone is to report back at the next meeting**
- **Action Item: RS to confirm whether or not we can use our committee/council funds to support attendance of a member to the PSAC BC Regional Convention.**
- Discussed deadline for names is December 31st, will schedule next meeting for November 29th.
- **Action Item: Everyone is to think about possible resolutions to put forward and we will discuss these at the next meeting**

Voting by Email (carried forward from last meeting)

- NS asked about validity of motions were made via email between this meeting and last and whether copies of email strings should be submitted with minutes.
- KM advised that motions are better made at meetings and ahead of time.
- Group discussed that noting in minutes that a motion was made via email and names of who seconded would be sufficient.

Motion to purchase Phoenix Wheel of Misfortune

- As per email *motion by NS: To purchase the 24" tabletop colour prize wheel for \$109.99 CDN plus tax from [Amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca) (please note Vancouver Area Council tried to source something like this from a union made company in Canada and could not find one) for use at Area Council and Regional committee events. This would be taken from funds under the "events" line item of the budget.*
- Seconded by KS and carried via email in August, copies of emails can be provided upon request.

Labour Day Picnic with NOLC

- Area Council members present at this meeting also participated in the North Okanagan Labour Council's Labour Day Picnic in Kelowna from 1030AM to 3 PM.
- This event was very well attended by both the general public and other union vendors.
- A few members (Murray - Parks Canada Revelstoke, Chelsea Cameron - Vancouver) and past members (Chandra former CEIU) stopped by our table. Chelsea volunteered for a significant amount of time making buttons with KM for the kids.
- We ran out of swag & giveaways about halfway through the event.
- Lots of chatting about bargaining, Phoenix, the federal election and what our members do every day for Canadians.

PSAC Education

- RS information for the two courses in on the BC region website (Politics for Everyone and Grievance Handling).
- Tell your members that the courses will fill up, get on the waiting list.

Bargaining Update

- RS noted that PA and common issues are back at the table with Treasury Board as of Sunday.
- RS mentioned that another union CSN (Confederation des syndicate nationaux) is trying to steal FB group.

Informal Discussion on Group Exercises that Impacted Members (topic stemmed from the KAIROS blanket discussion)

- General discussion around other group exercises that evoked an emotional or thought provoking experience.
- LW shared a story about an activity about what we consider are important things in our lives, and how we react when they are taken away.
- KM shared a story about an activity about oppression.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:11 PM

Next Meeting

November 30th, 2019, 9 AM

**VIA WhatsApp (MLR to arrange), or Vesta
conference call (KM to provide dial in info)**