

PSAC North East Area Council

General Meeting

April 13, 2017, HEU Hall in Prince George

Present:

Parveen Deepak (UTE 20002), Ron Hardy (USGE 20011), Tracy Arrowsmith (UTE 20002), Ceoral Hayes (USGE 20070)

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm

May Day Celebration: Ron discussed that the May Day 2017 Celebration will be coming up May 01, 2017. It will likely be held at the Coast Inn on Brunswick & 7th Avenue here in Prince George. It is a great opportunity for general union members: to attend and learn about the accomplishments of unions (not only in BC, but across Canada), to connect with federal, provincial, and municipal union representatives/members, and to learn and develop common bonds and strategies in meeting the challenges facing workers in the local, provincial, and federal arenas.

There will likely be an opportunity to learn more about the upcoming provincial election as it the election) will only be a few days after May Day. We, as an Area Council, need to look at getting as many federal members to attend the celebration. We have monies allocated in the NEAC budget to have hopefully ten union members to attend the celebration over the dinner hour. All NEAC General Meeting attendees will connect with their colleagues to fill at least one table approximately 10 people).

BC Provincial Election: It was discussed about arranging for a election call-out event where one or more telephone call making sessions would be organized to call all NEAC Area federal union members in an effort to urge them to at least vote in the upcoming BC provincial election May 9th. Ron will contact Patrick Bragg for a list of federal union members in the NEAC area, a non-partisan script of possible dialogue, and a synopsis of BC political parties' election platforms. Ron will also look for a venue in which to conduct the telephone call-out. The last provincial election call-out, done by NEAC members, was done at Parveen's home.

Labour Day Celebration: Ron discussed that the Labour Day Celebration is being organized in the current background and the NEAC should be starting to look at how we can be involved again this year. Last year's Celebration was well attended by unions and by Prince George citizens. There was estimated to be over 2000 people who attended. The local NEAC supported the event with info, balloons, and kids toys for booth attendees. The local REAPS (Recycling and Environmental Action Planning Society) organization supported the NEAC PSAC booth with tables and two canopies (to keep the weather off booth staff). We may have to look at purchasing one or more tents as the REAPS representative, from last year, is on the retirement schedule and is not expected to be involved this year.

BC PSAC Tri-ennial Convention: Ron's registration fees will need to be paid from the NEAC budget, as well as any wage loss. Ron may take a vacation day for the Friday of work he will miss. Ron has already made his flight arrangements to fly down the Thursday evening and return the Sunday evening. Discussion was had about sending an observer to the convention as well and funding that person as well. Discussion was had about sending Ceoral as an observer.

NEAC 2017 Budget: Ron will contact BC PSAC Kristin to determine the rationale for our budget request for 2017 being doubled to \$2000

NCLC Winter School: Tracy advised that the union sister that we supported for winter school has not been reimbursed the \$200. Ceoral wrote a cheque which was signed and will be passed along to the union sister by Tracy,

Tracy left at 6:15pm due to prior commitments.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:20pm

Next meeting will likely be scheduled for the end of June 2017 at 5:30pm at the Hospital Employee Union office. Ron to arrange and advise all on email list.