

**PSAC Okanagan |Women's Committee
Minutes of Meeting January 14th
Bunches Bistro, Kelowna**

In Attendance:

Susan Yaciw	UTE 20003	Martha Johnson	UVAE 20035
Kelly Megyesi	CEIU 20915	Annette Hale	USGE 20153
Roberta Gourlie	CEIU 20972	Darrell-Lee McKenzie	AGR 20043
Linda Woods	NAT 20140	Joy Harrison	APSAR
Maria-Luiza Romano	AGR 20043		

The meeting was called to order at 11:30am with Roberta Gourlie in the chair.

Minutes: none presented

Treasurer's Report and 2012 Budget – Presented with motion to accept moved – Kelly Megyesi; 2nd – Susan Yaciew; carried
**Kelly to forward reports electronically

Motion to add Maria-Luiza as signing authority for Women's Committee Banking : m/s/c
Current Signing Authorities: Joy, Roberta, Kelly, Maria-Luiza (2 signature minimum)

December 6th:

There was excellent representation in the Interior and Mainland by Okanagan Committee Members. 300 buttons were distributed along with information - materials were disseminated through by the Area Council.

In our area,

Kelowna - Vigil and Walk - Mindy Tran Memorial – attended by Roberta Gourlie and Linda Woods

Vernon - Hosted a self-defense course for women in the community (organized by Shirley Marwood)

Penticton - Vigil / Clothing drive - organized by Martha Johnson). Additional buttons were made for this event.

50 rose buttons donated and 50 PSAC buttons sold for Penticton Dec 6th campaign. Kelly moved that \$36.19 owing be covered by the committee. m/s/c

In BC

Kelly participated in a Dec 6 breakfast in Vancouver. She also participated in an evening vigil in Surrey organized by the Vancouver PSAC Women's Committee.

Thank you for all of the effort on everyone's behalf to make this a day of awareness and remembrance. All BC Women's Chairs issued a joint statement that was mailed to each local. It was very successful and we received a lot of positive feedback.

Upcoming: Women's Day - March 8th

Suggested focus: Unemployed Women

Action Item: Roberta to research local (Kelowna) organizations to see what assistance is needed (ie business attire, etc) for potential activities (ie. Clothing drive, etc..)

****Additional planning meeting(s)/teleconferences to follow**

Naramata Course/Retreat CONFIRMED!! September 14 – 16, 2012

Kelly gave an overview on the progress of this event. She originally connected with Joanna Schulz and Deb Seaboyer at the Richmond meetings. Once Regina returned we were given the green light and Kelly spent the afternoon at the BC PSAC office working with Deb Seaboyer and Regina Brennan on the course. The old women at work course is the base for the weekend program. The contracts have been signed and this is a wonderful initiative that the Okanagan Women are taking on.

Kelly asked for interest in helping with the organization of the weekend. Susan, Joy, Martha, Maria-Luiza, & Roberta all put their names forward. Everyone was in agreement that the Okanagan Women's Committee would become the host committee and would work on making the weekend an amazing opportunity for building our solidarity. Money has been tagged for this event and we will work on all aspects including messages, political action etc. Currently we are targeting to have 20-24 women participating. There is room for additional accommodation if required. It will be important to make this a hugely successful event so that it can become the template for future activities.

Host Committee: Kelly, Susan, Joy, Martha, Maria-Luiza, Roberta

*Darrell-Lee will assist and support as needed

*****Kelly foresees multiple meetings in order for the event to be successful. Frequency of meetings may increase as the event draws closer.***

Kelly made a motion to support an observer to PSAC convention with honorarium to max of \$500.00

m/s/c

Martha moved to purchase memory stick for storage of meeting minutes

m/s/c

Elections: - Chair of Elections Committee – Joy Harrison

President: Roberta Gourlie - – acclaimed

Nominated: Martha Johnson; 2nd: Kelly Megyesi

Secretary: Martha Johnson – acclaimed

Nominated – Roberta Gourlie; 2nd: Annette Hale

**Treasurer: Kelly Megyesi – acclaimed
Nominated – Martha Johnson; 2nd – Darrell-Lee McKenzie**

Round Table: Ideas for future events -

- Martha: The Urban Weaver Project:

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, in partnership with the Stanley Park Ecology Society has announced a new environmental art project in MacLean Park Fieldhouse. The Urban Weaver supports artists from diverse traditions working with ecologists exploring the creative repurposing of green waste.

Of interest is that invasive plant species are being used as the weaving media – a win-win for the artists and the environment.

For details: <http://vancouver.ca/parks/arts/urbanweaver.htm>

Kelly talked about hoping that the next BC Women's Conference would incorporate some aboriginal traditions and the importance of using some of the old type of tradition - like the weaving circle for connection with other women. Darrel-Lee was going to research some plants that we might want to use in our area. .