

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NORTHWEST BC AREA COUNCIL
MINUTES

September 12, 2013 Time: 7:55 PM Crest Hotel – Prince Rupert

In attendance:

- Benilde Gomes, USGE 20071
- Barry Cunningham, UCTE 20213
- Phyllis Bortignon, USGE 20071
- Jill MacNeill, UEW 20147
- Sean McGovern, CIU 20013VI
- George Armstrong, UCTE 20213
- Colette Savarie, PSAC BC Regional Representative
- Bob Jackson, PSAC BC REVP

ROLL CALL

Introduction of Guest Speakers – Benilde Gomes
Colette Savarie, Regional Representative, PSAC BC
Bob Jackson, Regional Executive Vice President, PSAC BC

Acceptance of Agenda – Benilde Gomes
Sean made a motion to accept the Agenda as read. Barry seconded the motion.
m/s/c.

Acceptance of Minutes from previous Annual General Meeting – Benilde Gomes via email (2013-09-??)

Financial Report – Barry Cunningham
Barry presented the report with a balance of \$4,948.71. Further explaining that the records are being audited by Carl Hugenschmidt, Accounting Services, he will send the audited statement to PSAC BC. He also stated that this the balance does not include the allotment from Regional.

Colette asked for clarification about who BC NDP is as noted for the expenditures in May.

Barry explained - May 14, 2013 expenditure to BC NDP was for Jennifer Rice, North Coast NDP MLA (voted in); May 14, 2013 expenditure to BC NDP was for

Doug Donaldson, Stikine NDP MLA (voted in); June 11, 2013 expenditure to BC NDP was for Robin Austin, Skeena/Kitimat NDP MLA (voted in).

Barry moved that his report be accepted as presented. George seconded. m/s/c

Area Council 2014 Proposed Budget – Barry Cunningham

Bob asked for the proposed 2014 budget and Barry presented as follows:

- Meetings, Travel and Associated Costs	\$ 600.00
- Political Donations	\$1000.00
- Education	\$ 600.00
- Accounting Services	\$ 100.00
- Convention fees, registration	\$1000.00
- Donations, miscellaneous	\$ 500.00
- Miscellaneous office, meetings, supplies	<u>\$ 200.00</u>
Total	<u>\$4000.00</u>

Presentation: Tears4Justice - Jill MacNeill

Jill spoke on the national walk from Membertou, Sydney, Nova Scotia to Prince Rupert, British Columbia, which launched June 21, 2013 and will be arriving here in Prince Rupert on Friday, September 20, 2013.

The main objective is to raise awareness on the plight of the hundreds of missing and murdered women and children in Canada. Their goal is to seek justice, closure, equality and accountability for all those family members and raise awareness about all issues of Violence against Women and Children.

Additionally the objective is not only to raise awareness, but also to stand in unity with all family members in their demands for Justice and a National Public Inquiry on National Missing and Murdered Women and Children Symposium to discuss and devise a National Action Plan to eliminate all forms of Violence towards Women and Children.

A local group has organized to see that Prince Rupert and outlying communities may offer them huge community welcome in honour of their initiative and to honour those families and friends affected by the loss of loved ones through violence and along our Highway of Tears.

A community potluck feast is being hosted and is seeking help with it and accommodation to the walkers. They are seeking financial and in-kind contributions. The Salmonberry Trading Group Society has agreed to record, deposit and disperse any financial contributions received for this event. Should any funds be left over, they will be donated to the Tears4Justice Grassroots organization that relies on donations.

Sean made a motion to donate \$300, Barry seconded the motion. m/s/c

Education: Colette Savarie

Regional office has been running without an education coordinator.

Due to the poor showing for courses, consideration is being given to combining areas for courses, which would make them more viable to present.

Discussion:

- Costs covered per day have increased from \$25 to \$50.
- What courses to have – i.e.: Shop Stewards, Interpretation of Collective Agreement, Grievance Handling.

We Are All Affected Campaigns – Benilde Gomes and Bob Jackson

Be has put on demonstrations in Kitimat and Terrace with very positive feedback from the public who show a keen interest in what the issues of the campaigns are about. Especially took an interest in the buttons with messages, i.e. Stephen Harper hates me, etc.

Bob discusses the campaign – it's a fundamental approach. Meetings in Vancouver, Vancouver Island and the Interior were launch meetings. Now they are in the process of planning training meetings. In the follow up stage right now. It is a bit of a challenge with locals that are province wide. Area Councils could help get the message out about challenges we are facing, not just collective bargaining. Discuss what it means to be a union member. Engage the public at every opportunity. This fall the new PSAC website will be launched along with videos aimed at the public about the work we do for the public. The campaign will continue for quite some time. It will be discussed at the Regional Council meeting

The Canadian Labour Council Campaign is coming out at the end of September – very similar to what the PSAC is doing. CLC and PSAC are affiliates, members of the NWAC should encourage local members to attend the CLC meetings.

Be asks if anyone hears any community events for the CLC Campaign, to let her know so she can plan to attend.

Bob discusses the recent Provincial Election results being very disappointing results. But he is very proud of the members who worked so hard on the election campaign.

The Municipal Elections coming up this fall and the Federal Election in 2015.

The TC Group is in the last stage of ratification, CRA is still bargaining.

Next round of Treasury Board bargaining to start soon. It is going to be particularly difficult this round as the government has set their sights on Civil Service. They want to break unions.

Political Action Updates – Barry Cunningham

Barry confirms that he is running as a candidate for Prince Rupert City Council. He asks for a donation for his campaign.

Sean makes a motion to donate \$400. George seconded the motion.

m/s/c.

Discussion:

- Barry says the Prince Rupert Labour Council and the Longshoremen are backing him. There has been very positive feed back from the community for him to run. He also attended the last NDP meeting and they have committed to backing him as well.

Resolutions for PSAC BC Regional Convention – Benilde Gomes

The Regional Council meeting is next week so more information will be learned about the convention.

Resolutions to be put forward by the next NWAC meeting.

Local representation to be determined as well.

Election of Officers for Northwest BC Area Council – Bob Jackson

- President: Barry nominates Be
Be nominates Sean

Sean declines to allow his name to stand
Be allows her name to stand and is elected in.
- Vice President Be nominates Sean
Sean allows his name to stand and is elected in.
- Secretary Be nominates Phyllis
Phyllis declines to allow her name to stand

Sean nominates Jill

Jill allows her name to stand and is elected in.

- Treasurer Sean nominates Barry
Barry allows his name to stand and is elected in.

Election of Delegate to PSAC BC Regional Convention (April 25 – 27, 2014)

Tabled until October meeting - before October 25.

Goals

We Are All Affected – On going
Prince Rupert Municipal Election – this fall
Terrace Municipal Election next year

Assignments

- Local meetings
- Work site tours
- Standing Committees – Get the Womens’ Committee up and running
- Good and Welfare – Terry Intermela – Be suggests that we put together a pictures and words scrapbook to present in recognition of all the people he has helped over the years.

Update – Terry passed on September 19

Next Meeting: October 17 – Teleconference call – details to be emailed out.

9:29pm – Adjourn

Original Signed by Benilde Gomes

President Northwest BC Area Council