

**Annual General Meeting
NORTHWEST AREA COUNCIL
November 4, 2011 at Crest Hotel in Prince Rupert**

AGM commenced at 7:40pm at the Crest Hotel in Prince Rupert with 6 members and 6 guests present.

Benilde GOMES (President)	USGE Local 20071
Ann STRUTT (Vice President)	UEW 20147, Vice President
Barry CUNNINGHAM (Treasurer)	UCTE 20213 (by phone)
Phyllis BORTIGNON (Secretary)	USGE Local 20071, Secretary
Lynnda RYGAARD	USGE Local 20071
Sean MCGOVERN	CIU 20042
Barry DUGGAN	UCTE 20213
Gordon TUTON	UCTE 20213
Barry MCDONALD	AGR 20042
Rick EISELE	AGR 20042
Bob JACKSON (guest)	REVP PSAC-BC
Terry INTERMELA (guest)	Prince Rupert Unemployed Centre Society

Introductions

Benilde introduced herself and thanked everyone for coming. There was a round table of introductions.

Agenda Presented

Benilde moved that the Agenda be adopted as presented with amendments. *m/s/c.*

1. Guest Speaker

Benilde introduced **Bob JACKSON, PSAC BC Regional Executive Vice-President:**

- Bob spoke of being elected as the REVP this past May at the PSAC BC Regional Convention and thanked the NWAC for their support and endorsement.
- **Having visited this area numerous times** over the past 18 years.
 - **Wanting to be more visible** and to that end has already travelled throughout southern BC this past summer, to Vancouver Island and now here
 - **Improving the PSACBC website** with Patrick Bragg by, making videos which reflect the memberships' voices, opinions and issues. He hopes this will help the members to share and understand what issues are being faced in work places. If there are any suggestions for the website please contact Patrick.
 - **Changes** taking place this past year with newly elected officers **within PSAC** both provincially and nationally.

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- **The Plan**, which started off with an action meeting in Vancouver last week, involving 100 members from different components. Discussions at this meeting encompassed changes within work places, i.e. Workforce adjustment training; ensuring the MPs for all ridings are aware of what is happening in the workforce; engaging the public regarding supporting each other, because we are all consumers of each others services.
- **Propaganda** from Catherine Swift of CFIB – Canadian Federation of Independent Business. The misinformation she and her organization have been spreading across the provinces, along with the stickers some businesses have on their doors and inside at the cash tills, needs to be clarified with the public. Do they understand that the propaganda being put out is not accurate? Perhaps PSAC members should ask these business owners if they understand the impact of members not spending at their businesses. After all we live and work together in our communities.
- **Future negotiations** – collective agreements are going to be tough this next time around. The current government, economy, propaganda, etc are going to be tough hurdles.
- **Training and Education** – members need to take part more in the training being offered.
 - I. The Health and Safety course is taking place this weekend in Prince Rupert (November 5 and 6) and in Prince George (November 26 and 27).
 - II. Advanced Stewarts training coming up November 19 to 22 in Vancouver.

Check the website www.psacbc.com/education for more courses scheduled and sign up for them.

- III. On line training is being developed for new members wishing to be more active and more aware of the structure of the PSAC, similar to what the Talking Union Basic course had to offer.
- **Regional Council** meets a couple of times a year, with the first meeting of the new council having taken place October 20 to 22. The next one will be scheduled for late winter or early spring.

Open Discussion

Sean asks Bob if education within his component could increase for the new members as there are quite a few of them who are all under 5 years experience.

Bob explains that there are courses being developed with basic information for new hires, which provide understanding where they fit into the national and local PSAC structure, where they can find out information, ask questions, etc.

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Right now there is a real disconnect within the membership, a lack of knowledge regarding components, collective agreements, health and safety. Members don't understand that they do have rights. This information is available on line at both the national PSAC and PSACBC. This should be shared with the membership. Members need to feel good about themselves and their contribution to the work force and communities within which they live and work.

For any suggestions, needs, please contact Bob. He will be coming back to this area more.

Benilde thanked Bob on behalf of the Northwest Area Council for visiting and presented him with a gift of a book he had been looking at .
"Crest Hotel History and Cook Book"

Benilde also reminded members of the petition on the PSAC-BC website which PSAC has put out as part of a major effort to pressure Treasury Board President, Tony Clement to reverse plans for cuts and improve the services Canadians pay for. Please sign. Think Public.

2. Presentation: Unemployed Society – Terry Intermela

Benilde explained about the fundraising that was done at the PSAC BC Regional Tri-Annual Convention in May 2011. The recipient of the funds were raised for the Prince Rupert Unemployed Society. **Bob** presented **Terry Intermela** with a cheque in the amount of \$2577 for the Society.

Terry spoke regarding his role and explained that he prepares a proposal every year for funding and thanks the NWAC for continuing in providing and supporting this initiative on his behalf. He is very grateful.

He further explained that in the 1980s, there were 30 centres. The funding was received by unions (50%) and the federal government (50%). There was a deal made with the provincial government and PM Mulroney that the funding removed supported by the federal government be removed. To date Prince Rupert is the only centre still operating and that is with many thanks to PSAC and other local organizations.

Sean commented that Terry helped him years ago to fill out his EI and other forms which was a great help to him as he didn't understand the paper process.

3. Minutes from February 26, 2011

Phyllis moved that the minutes be adapted as presented. *m/s/c*

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4. Financial Report (Barry is available on the phone)

Bob asked if dues from all of the locals are paid up to date?

Discussion between Barry, Benilde, Ann and Sean.

- UEW – **Ann** explains that her work rep has asked for an invoice to pay it and **Barry** explains that he misunderstood this.
- CIU – **Sean** has not been to meetings for the last couple years and will bring this to the attention of his rep as well.

Benilde notes there is a mistake on the February 4, 2011 entry indicating that Local 20926 has paid the yearly dues for 2011 – this should read Local 20071.

Sean asked what the area council is spending its money on as the bank balance quite healthy and perhaps contributions should be given to other local organizations, similar to the Employment Society.

Bob also comments that the area councils are more than just meetings. What happens in the communities should be considered by the councils. If further funding, support is required, to contact him.

Benilde responds to both comments that the bank balance is also high because she has not been seeking recompense. Some of the work done may also be funded through the PSAC BC Regional office for her role as the PSAC BC Northwest BC Coordinator.

Open discussion is held regarding suggestions about promotion of PSAC through the Area Council, within the communities would be very helpful to all concerned. Members will bring more ideas to the table at future meetings.

Sean moved to adopt the Financial Report as presented, with the amendment. *m/s/c.*

5. Education

Benilde reminds everyone that there is Health and Safety course happening this weekend at the Crest Hotel, with PSAC BC Regional Representative, **Colette Savarie** as the facilitator. She recommends the Stewards Training along with the Talking Union Basics (TUB) and the Understanding and Interpreting the Collective Agreement (UICA) for those who haven't taken it and also as a refresher.

Sean suggests that the TUB course should be an on line training course.

Open discussion held with **Bob** suggesting that **Colette Savarie** and **Deb Seaboyer** be sent out for training of a group of 10 or more in one area or work place. It would be advisable to take the on line courses and then the Stewards training. **Deb Seaboyer** is the temporary Educational representative for PSAC BC Regional while **Amal Rana** is on secondment with another affiliation.

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Networking is fundamental for keeping the lines of communication open with other components and/or locals.

Discussion circulated considering having training run on Fridays and Saturdays instead of Saturdays and Sundays. **Bob** suggests putting this idea forward as a proposal.

6. Bob adds that in reference to The Plan, that lead up to the PSAC National Tri-annual Convention next year (in Toronto April 2012) Area Councils should be getting input from the membership on:

- What the future is going to look like.
- Encourage members to do the membership survey on line.
- Get input on what the membership on their thoughts about what are we going to do regarding the Harper government budget.

This period of time in our history is unprecedented. There are no incentives and major down sizing is coming.

The Plan will be talked about for discussions during convention business at 1 ½ hours on each day. The delegates will be trying to build a plan of action for the future direction of the union. Agreements are expiring in 2012 and 2014. What direction does the membership want PSAC to take in organizing for this?

Sean thanks **Bob** for coming out and visiting the area and work sites. This means a lot to the local memberships.

Open Discussion on components uniting and organizing within the areas throughout the area within the past few years – due to the Area Councils. The public should be engaged in discussions as well in order to get them on our side.

7. Resolutions for PSAC National Convention

Date for deadline to be checked and further discussion at next meeting.

8. Election of Delegate to PSAC National Convention

Election date has expired – it must be done 6 months prior to the convention and the Area Councils MUST meet at least 4 times a year prior to the election. NWAC meeting in June 2011 did not meet quorum therefore that meeting did not meet the criteria.

9. Political Action Updates

- Commissionaires at Prince Rupert Seal Cove base - next into their round of bargaining. **Benilde** proposes that we combine forces to help them out.

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- Benilde proposes that the council bring Nathan Cullen out to get on board with us for presenting a proposal to the House of Commons regarding the issues at the Coast Guard base at the shop and hanger.
- Benilde was seeking support encouraging members to sign the Nomination papers as Nathan Cullen is running for Leader of the NDP.

10. Bob JACKSON ran the NWAC Elections noting that there are 4 positions on the Executive that are open.

Elections were held

(Elected President) – Benilde GOMES

(Elected Vice President) - VACANT

(Elected Treasurer) – Barry CUNNINGHAM

(Elected Secretary)- Phyllis BORTIGNON

Goals

Where do we go from here?

Tabled to next meeting.

Women's Committee Update.

Tabled to next meeting.

Assignments

Calendar of Events

Tabled to next meeting.

Next Meeting

December 10, 2011

1:00 pm

Kitimat-Terrace and District Labour Council office

#206 – 4557 Park Avenue

Meeting adjourned at 10:20pm

Scribed by Phyllis Bortignon