

Okanagan Area Council Meeting August 22, 2016

Present: Linda Woods UNE 20140, Susan Yaciw UTE 20003, Maria-Luiza Romano AGR 20027, Darrell-Lee McKenzie AGR 20043.

Special Guest: Regina Brennan (retired PSAC Okanagan RO Rep)

Approval of minutes of previous meeting tabled until next meeting.

Treasurer's Report – The new bank account has now been opened at the Interior Savings Credit Union in Vernon. Signing authorities are, Maria-Luzia Romano, Linda Woods, Susan Yaciw and Tova Wadsworth. The current bank balance is \$4,996.53. Two cheques were issued to Linda Woods: \$30.00 to cover the hall rental for our June meeting and \$100 for the basket donation to the Compassionate Friends fund raising campaign (motion approved at June meeting). This balance also reflects the \$100 contribution being made to the North Okanagan Labour Council Labour Day Picnic. (motion approved at June meeting)

Bargaining – Reported that UTE has a tentative agreement, however, the agreement has not yet been ratified. There was a discussion around the contract achieved and the “reopener clause”. The re-opener clause gives the union the ability to negotiate increases above those provided for under the agreement for the 2014 and 2015 rates. These discussions would take place no later than October 2017. Should the parties not reach an agreement in these talks, the dispute would be submitted to arbitration for binding resolution consistent with the Public Service Labour Relations Act. These talks would be subject to no preconditions and would be undertaken like any other wage negotiation.

Treasury Board teams are back to the table in the fall.

Linda advised that she is a member of the Bargaining team for her the SSO group and that the team has met once.

Discussed the issues around Canada Posts bargaining and things that we can do to assist in their fight.

Labour Day Picnic – finalized details for the Labour Day Picnic. It would appear that not many members of the Area Council are going to be at the event lending a hand. Those who have come forward are greatly appreciated. Reminded everyone to post a notice about the event in their work sites so members have the opportunity to attend.

ACTION: Susan to send out poster/event reminder the week prior to the event.

Jamey Mills will be representing the Regional office at the event. He will be bringing up some union materials and swag for the event.

A previous motion was passed to contribute \$100 to the Labour Day Picnic.

ACTION: Susan to locate the mailing address of the North Okanagan Labour Council Treasurer and forward to Maria-Luiza so she can mail a cheque.

Site Visits – Jamey Mills and Susan will be visiting a couple of work sites while he is in the Okanagan. Still waiting confirmation as to whether or not permission will be granted to attend the CFIA plant in Vernon.

Confirmation has been received for site visits at the Kelowna CRA office and the Summerland Research Station.

BC Regional Women's Conference - Discussed the possibility of submitting a resolution to the conference regarding the participant allocation for each region to more closely reflect the representation by female population as it seems that the areas outside of the lower mainland are always under represented. Due to the lack of time to prepare the resolution and considering the cost that would be involved to bring more participants in from outside the lower mainland, it was decided to not submit the resolution but to consider it for another conference.

Human Rights October event- Discussed the email motion and vote to help sponsor the event being put on by the Okanagan Human Rights Committee. Following is a copy of the email and motion sent to the members of the Okanagan Area Council:

Attached, please find information regarding an event that the Okanagan Human Rights Committee would like to host in Kelowna on October 16, 2016. (The proposal document was attached to email)

The Human Rights committee sees this event as a continuation of our building communities' sessions. It is linking unions to community on important topics. It fosters a greater understanding of rights. Unions have taken on these issues and PSAC BC has done work in conjunction with BC fed on the issues.

The selected topic, Temporary foreign workers is a follow up on presentations that were presented at the BC Federation conference in Kelowna.

The keynote speaker was at the racially visible conference.

Motion: Submitted by Susan Yaciw/seconded by Joanne Hay (the proposed budget for this event is \$1800 less ticket sales of approximately \$300) therefore make a motion that the Okanagan Area council support this event with a financial contribution of up to \$375.00. (1800-300 = 1500 x 25%).

This motion was accepted by the majority of the Okanagan Area Council, therefore, the Okanagan Area Council will fund up to \$375.00 towards this event.

ACTION: Susan to send an email to the Okanagan Human Rights Committee advising of the contribution

BC Regional Council meeting - next meeting is scheduled for October 14-16, 2016

Next meeting: TBD