

Okanagan Area Council Meeting

November 5, 2016

In Attendance: Susan Yaciw Michele Sibson Darrel-Lee Carolyn McGillivray Maria-Luiza Romano

By Phone: Robert Strang

Regrets: Shiv Reddy

Previous Minutes approved

Treasurers Report by Maria Luiza – motion passed to accept

Labour Day Picnic report by Susan Yaciw attended by Susan Yaciw, Maria-Luiza Romano and Michele Sibson from Okanagan Area Council; Jamie Mills brought “swag” and information from BC Regional Office

Picnic was well attended by over 800 members of the community

Jamie and Susan made Site visits on Tuesday throughout parts of the Okanagan

- CFIA in Vernon and Kelowna (mainly Phoenix issue discussions)
- Summerland Research Facility where they were given an exclusive and awesome tour of the Fields and gardens

Linda Woods thanked the Area Council for its \$100 donation to the Compassionate Friends event (the \$100 was used for a “doggy goodie” basket that was well received with a final winning bid of over \$100. The event itself raised \$2600

The Human Rights Event (October) in Vernon was well received

The Speakers were well chosen and provided an interactive program

They spoke of the effects of the disruption of families for migrant workers – i.e. Nannies leaving their own biological children in their home country to work in Canada looking after Canadian children; they might work 7 – 9 years before being able to bring over their families – they become strangers themselves to their own children – it is actually a Reunification of Strangers

Many migratory workers attended and each table had a worker available to speak of their personal experience

It was a very successful event and brought awareness and education to the attendees

- There is an art display of migrant workers at the museum for viewing if anyone interested

*** Linda Woods noted that regarding the reunification of families – IN the Philippines, divorce is not allowed and yet most marriages do not survive the migrant worker experience/children are angry at their mothers and the husbands are jealous of their wives – The Philippian travels here for a better future but loses everything like her family connections and ties The workers leave home because the economy of their country has been destroyed

Mexican workers are seasonal workers (majority of whom are male) and are away only 8 months before returning home to restrengthen the family relationships

A Follow up Event is being considered

REGIONAL COUNCIL Update:

Virginia VALLAINCOURT (sp?) is now in Ottawa until October 2017

Kelly Sidhu (Vancouver) has taken over as Women's Coordinator BC Region

Leanne Hughes (CIU) has replaced Crystal Warner as National Officer

Veterans Affairs office in Kelowna is on the move to a larger space on the 3rd floor of the Government building at Queensway in Kelowna

October 31 was a Day of action re Phoenix – "Plant gate" took place at the Summerland Research Station with the scientists taking part

Bargaining – CRA ratified the last contract that expired 1 week later then were back to bargaining for a new contract

B C Regional Convention is June 16 to 18 @ the Fairmont in Vancouver- Watch for a callout in January 2017; resolutions will likely be required to be submitted by March 15

Human Rights and Women's Area Councils may send delegates to convention BUT all reporting must be done by End of Year (Minutes and financial statements)

** Reminder that loss of Salary is not covered by PSAC

AGM in January 2017 will be time to discuss possible delegates

Darrel Lee reminded the council about the Workers Museum Calendars for 2017 – Celebrating 150 years of working in the Capital Region

Cost is \$15 ea or 5 or more @ \$12 ea

Motion was made by Darrel Lee for the Area Council to buy 10 calendars spending no more than \$150 including shipping /Linda Woods seconded - Motion carried unanimously

Linda Woods informed the Council that the Employer (SSO) refuses to pay for paper booties for Stats Can employees visiting homes – sometimes employees take off shoes when entering and this may be a Safety concern; the employer insists that the \$20/pay for office expenses should cover this requirement Linda also mentioned that their Negotiator has moved to a different job so PSAC put in a replacement – Richard Holman

Robert Strang extended congratulations to those involved in the successful HR event in October

Discussed Education – the course in Kamloops was good but low attendance (only 6 or 7 people)

Advised of upcoming spring courses (Steward Series – Feb 18&19 and April 22 & 23 – Grievance handling

Carolyn asked for Specialized Training to be considered as the basics have been done – need level 3 & 4

Robert stated that 7-9 people have applied for Union Development

Kelly Megyesi asked about a Women at Work course that has been requested for a # of years without action / request will be sent to Deb

Membership Engagement conference/seminar expected in March – date TBA

Linda Woods spoke of TUBNUCA (?) – apply to UNE/PSAC for funding

Any SSO person that takes the course will be paid 7.5 hours/day

Course in the Vancouver either at the Hilton Metrotown or Holiday Inn Metrotown

Motion put forward by Linda Woods, seconded by Susan Yaciw for \$100 be donated for gift card for the Kelowna Women's Shelter to be presented at their Christmas Dinner Dec 21.

Motion passed unanimously

Volunteers for said dinner sponsored by the Kelowna Sunrise Rotary Club are appreciated and Linda Woods, Michele Sibson, and Susan Yaciw offered to attend. Details will be provided in early December.

END OF MEETING – Next Meeting JANUARY 2017 - AGM