

Vancouver Area Council Annual General Meeting Minutes – October 24, 2012

PSAC Regional Office, 200-5238 Joyce Street, Vancouver, BC

Present:

Jamey Mills (President) UTE 20027, Sharon Tieman (Treasurer) UPCE 20101, Stephen Armstrong, (CEIU 20938), Aaron Chang (2nd Vice-President) CEIU 20938, Julie Bussiere (Member at Large) CEIU 20944, Shawna Hall (UNE 20088) Marion McLarty (UNE 20150); Fe de Castro (Member at Large) GSU 20008, Erica Yang (CEIU 20949), Monica Urrutia (PSAC BC-Regional Representative)

Guests: Tom Hopkins (PSAC-TC Bargaining Team Member); Colin Van Haar (AGR 20060), Pavel Grigoriew (AGR 20060); Kim Koch (Prince George Area Council); Deanna Wilson

Regrets: Angela Duhamel (AGR 20044), Cheryl Oenema (UNDE 21008), Colby Peters (CEIU 20937), Duncan Travers (UNE 20150), Sam Weise (CEIU 20949), Sigrid Hagglund (UTE 20027), Terri Lee (AGR 20044), Tracy Shudo (CEIU 20949)

Agenda:

1. Introduction
2. Motion to Approve the Agenda
3. Review of Minutes
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Guest Speaker – Tom Hopkins
7. Affiliate Reports
8. Election
9. District Labour Course
10. Education
11. Action Plans

Call to Order was made by Jamey Mills at 5:35 PM.

1. Introduction – Round table of executives, delegates and guests

2. Motion to Approve the Agenda - m/s – Stephen and Julie

3. Review of Previous Minutes

– need to add Sharon Tieman to the regrets

– amended minutes m/s – Erica and Aaron – All in favor

4. President's Report – *please see attached*

5. Treasurer's Report – m/s – Sharon and Erica – carried unanimously

- Sharon Tieman presented the Finance Report for 2011/2012 - *please see attached*
- Affiliate dues are doing well and growing. Participation of more locals is encouraged.
- District Labour Council Affiliation Dues – 3 locals currently affiliated, if those locals are in need of the subsidy, please apply to the Vancouver Area Council
- Proposed 2012/2013 Budget was presented – m/s – Sharon and Erica – carried

6. Guest Speaker – Tom Hopkins – *please see attached*

7. Affiliate Reports – *Please see attached report sent in by affiliates*

- Aaron Chang (CEIU 20938) - As mentioned at the previous meeting, all term employees at local 20938 have been extended to March 2013. CIC DM Neil Yates came to Vancouver and answered at the town hall on 11 October 2012 that CIC is doing well in meeting its DRAP target. Neil Yates is not expecting a large number of letters to be issued in April 2013. CEIU has a national campaign. It is called "The Neglected". The website address is: theneglected.ca/en The general public is encouraged to post their stories about how budget cuts have a negative impact on their lives. Public Service employee members should access and share this information outside work only. The Backlog Reduction Office Vancouver is going to close at the end of March 2013. Certain functions will be moving to IRB. As a result, some of the members at local 20938 will likely transfer to local 20974.
- Guest: Colin Van Haar (AGR 20060) - The Canadian Grain Commission is the regulator of the grain industry in Canada. Currently all grain that is received into terminal elevators is weighed (quantity assurance) and inspected (quality assurance), as well as all grain that is shipped out for export is weighed and inspected. Over nineteen million tonnes of grain is shipped from the West Coast every year from both Prince Rupert (approx. 5 million) and the Port of Vancouver (approx 14.5 million). In February the CGC announced to the staff that there will be some proposed legislation coming, anticipated to be tabled in the fall. There is now proposed legislation in the omnibus Bill C-45 that would make drastic changes to the Canada Grain Act, eliminating three of four services we provide. The only service left would be outward inspection to vessels, which would require about 50-60 members from the Product Inspection group. The employer has announced that under the proposals, all members in the General Labour (all from weighing services) classification would be no longer needed, as well as a working level of PI-3 and up. Local 20060 has approximately 200 members, so we will potentially lose 140-150 members as the changes are implemented. Basically the work our members do would be turned over to the private sector. We feel very passionate about the work we do, and feel it is important work. Morale is very low. We

haven't officially received affected letters, but we know they are coming. The changes to our services could come before the legislation goes through, however there is no date other than we know it could be anytime before August 1st 2013.

- CEIU 20944 – awaiting report
- Shawna Hall (UNE 20088) - Workforce Adjustment: Library and Archives - losing members from a site in Burnaby which is closing due to the privatization of government record keeping. Depending on the department some of these records will now be managed by American companies like Iron Mountain and be subject to US Patriot Act. Canadian Heritage - is wrapping up their layoffs, most people who were surplus have left. Western Economic Diversification will be down to 6 members from 30 by November. The remaining members are being cross-trained on different duties to compensate for the loss of their fellow members. The union representative at the worksite is discussing the crosstraining situation with management. Passport Canada - a program review has taken place but no announcements about made about WFA. An announcement about program review was expected in September but has been delayed. Other News: Our local has passed a motion to support the formal recognition of a BC Mainland Young Workers Committee. One more local needed for the process to be complete.
- UNE 20150 – awaiting report
- Fe de Castro (GSU 20008) – AGM is scheduled on Nov. 19th. Donna Lackie, National President of GSU has been invited as guest speaker. Bill Fleming, current GSU President, announced that he is not seeking another term. Term employees are being extended and two EG-04s were recently hired by internal posting. Alternation is being monitored by HR on a weekly basis.
- CEIU 20949 – awaiting report
- UPCE 20101 – awaiting report
- Jamey Mills (UTE 20027) - New National VP elected, Marc Brier from the Montreal Local, former VP Chris Aylward was elected National VP-PSAC. Counter closures are happening, BFTSO is closed already and VTSO will be closing within 18 months. Layoffs have occurred in our Collections division (approx. 7 employees). Our Special Investigations division is being reduced from approx. 15 to 4 offices (deals with criminality and black market income). Appeals is being regionally consolidated to VTSO. Prince George TSO is to become a satellite of Southern Interior TSO (huge management cut implications). Bill C45 looks to have serious impacts on the way we bargain (asking TB for finalization), very real other impacts ex. Staffing. Bargaining has started, demands have been exchanged and meetings being set up for negotiation, not likely to be as quick as our last 2 contracts

8. Election

- President – Jamey Mills – Acclaimed

- 1st Vice President – Aaron Chang – Acclaimed
- 2nd Vice President – Sam Weise – Acclaimed
- Treasurer – Sharon Tieman – Acclaimed
- Secretary – Erica Yang – Acclaimed
- Members-at-Large – Stephen Armstrong, Julie Bussiere and Terri Lee - Acclaimed

9. District Labour Courses – Sometimes available through the Vancouver & District Labour Council, or the BC Fed or Canadian Labour Congress.

10. Education

- PSAC provides \$50 subsidy to those who sign-up for courses.
- Monica made a request that each affiliate survey their membership to gauge interest in PSAC courses and provide input by November 7.
- Folks suggested WFA and If People Counted at the meeting

11. Action Plans

- We Are All Affected Campaign
- Area Council Action per month, focused on affiliates to the VAC, could target Conservative MPs in BC on rotation.
- PSAC Softball Tournament – “take over” the one that used to be government sponsored. Victoria Area Council has done this pretty successfully.
- Provincial Election in May – The PSAC Regional Office boardroom is available for use, could hold an all-candidates debate
- Evergreen Document – Community Events
- Cultural Events
- Campaign Letters to the MP
- Email certain MP
- continue participation in May Day and Labour Day Events
- make BBQ annual, was very successful this year

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM