

PSAC Victoria Area Council
 General Meeting
 October 24, 2019
 PSAC Victoria Regional Office 5:45pm

Attendees:

Trish Martin – President (CEIU 20975)	Marcelo Lazaro – VP (UNDE 21016)
Ian Wiggs – Treasurer (UNDE 21008)	Astrid Stoker – Secretary (CIU 20042)
Steve Portlock – UNDE 21010	Kuldeep Deol – GSU 20001
Andy Hughes – UCTE 20209	T. Mark Miller – UNDE VP (BC)
Angela George – CEIU 20975	Marlene Stevens - UVAE
Nancy Sermons – DCL 20500	James Burgess – UNDE 21010
Giselle Henry – USJE 2C089	
STAFF REP – James Little	

Regrets: Leanne Hughes – CIU 20042

1742hr – President Trish Martin called to order.

AGENDA: (handout)

- **Motion to accept Agenda as presented. M/ Andy Hughes, S/ Marcelo Lazaro. CARRIED.**

PREVIOUS MINUTES: (handout)

- **Motion to accept the minutes of July 10, 2019 General Meeting, as presented. M/ Ian Wiggs, S/ Steve Portlock. CARRIED.**

FINANCES: Ian Wiggs

- 1 handout: SVIAC (PSAC) Financial Report for 01 July 2019 – 30 Sep 2019.
- Balance at July 1st totalled \$2723.94. Saanich Fair incidentals were \$339, however does not include all incidentals, yet. There will be approximately an additional \$86 for wristbands / incidentals.
- PSAC Vancouver office did pay for Saanich Fair registration fee.
- Approximate balance for rest of the year is \$1598.02.
- Includes donation of \$200 to Tour De Rock for Ben Hughes (PSAC participant).
- **Motion to accept SVIAC (PSAC) Financial Report 01 July 2019 – 30 Sep 2019 as presented. M/ Ian Wiggs, S/ Marcelo Lazaro. CARRIED.**

SAANICH FAIR: Trish Martin

- Did well overall with lots of people stopping by the booth.
- Jamey Mills was present on Saturday. Will be able to get the prize wheel from Jamey for next year's Fair, but still need prizes.
- Noted that in previous years we were the only union present, and this year CUPE & PIPS were there, too.
- Did not get popcorn machine this year. Decision in future to either purchase a machine, or not rent at all. Need to discuss in future with Regional PSAC Office.
- Suggestion to talk to CUPE & PIPS next year to coordinate with them.
- Discussion regarding whether preference is to have the union booths in a row, or spread out in other areas.
- Regional leadership was asked for swag & any issues or campaign items – unfortunately, there were no answers. Will be working towards re-connecting with leadership over the next year.

RESOLUTIONS: (handout – “Additional representative in Vancouver Island Regional office”)

- Currently, there is only one Representative on the island (James Little), the other position is for Vancouver. The 2 PSAC positions here are Rosemary & James.
- Discussion regarding possible amendments to the resolution.
- Suggestions were made for changes to wording, as well as time frame for resolution to be enacted. There were also suggestions that Rationale include more data for ratios on how many members are on the island vs how many representatives. Also, include in the background information the road time servicing the whole island.
- Marcelo Lazaro noted that when Vancouver Island representative is not present/available, then there is no other representative to cover or fill in.
- Nancy Sermons – Regional Women's Committee: there were 8 resolutions for Women's Conference last month, and 6 went forward. Will share with Victoria Area Council.

NEXT MEETING:

- Nov 21st – need any other resolutions before Nov 21st.
- Nancy Sermons will submit other resolutions.

REMEMBRANCE DAY: Trish Martin

- Please let Trish know of anyone who could volunteer to lay wreath in Langford? Wreath will be there regardless, but no one to lay it at the moment. Nancy Sermons offered to put a request to her members for a volunteer.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL:

- Not a large attendance last year. Was approx \$600 last year. Returned some of the money to locals, as there was some left over.
- Those in attendance agreed it was important to continue the event. Date chosen: Thursday, Dec 5th (assuming members are not in a strike situation).

ROUND TABLE:

- Nancy Sermons - Dec 6th at 5:30pm, candlelight vigil at Highland Park (off Dallas Road). Raising money for organizations supporting abused women, Transition House, elder abuse, etc. Will be guest speakers. Please come out to support this event.
- Bargaining Update: Commissionaires: negotiations came to impasse on September 4th. They are Provincial (not Treasury Board), so had to go through BC Labour Board to get a mediator. Commissionaires earn \$13.85/hr, which is minimum wage. These members have served their country and have lots of working experience. Employer won't offer retro pay, and no real pay increase. Commissionaires asking for \$16. Their current wage is still not a living wage, and recent news reports have stated \$20 - \$24/hr is a living wage. Their work includes shift work, at various sites (including Yukon). Workers are half union, half not union. Please let commissionaires know they are supported. Please consider coming out to picket line, and showing them support.

PLANNING for 2020:

- Victoria Day Parade? We did not attend parade this last year (2019). The last few years, there has not been enough volunteers for this event. Also, not enough of an impact with few volunteers and one car. Consensus to not attend the Victoria Day Parade in 2020.
- Regional Women's Committee requesting money for Christmas hamper for Victoria Transition House. Although Victoria Area Council does not donate to other Committees, we would like to fund towards the community. Victoria Area Council will make donation directly to Victoria Transition House.
- Giselle Henry suggested a donation to Duncan Transition House and/or Indigenous Transition House. Victoria Area Council to contact N Island Area Council to ask if they can donate to Duncan Transition House, as that is their area. Trish advised that it may be possible at a subsequent meeting to also donate to another organization (such as Indigenous Transition House).
- **Motion to donate \$200 to the Victoria Women's Transition House on behalf of Victoria Area Council. M/ Angela George, S/ Marcelo Lazaro. PASSED.**
- Giselle Henry suggested planning something for Mental Health Day, Suicide Awareness Day, and/or Depression Day in 2020. Possibly something combined for all three.

ROUND TABLE (continued):

- Marcelo Lazaro: at DND a Phoenix email was sent out to their members with a link describing that other departments, unions, had settled for Phoenix damages. Local UNDE members thought they were part of the email and would be getting retro monies, etc. It was not clear that UNDE was still in bargaining and that the email did not apply to them. National PSAC was contacted to advise them of this issue.
- Marcelo Lazaro - Bargaining teams: teams were involved in bargaining all week leading up to Labour Day weekend. On Friday afternoon, the teams were called to attend additional bargaining meetings the next day (the Saturday of long weekend). Members gave up their long weekend and changed their travel in order to extend their stay and attend the Saturday bargaining meetings. Employer was a no show. Negotiator called the Employer who stated they were done talking to the bargaining team and the Employer had nothing to add. Bargaining team believed progress was being made throughout the week, and Friday night Employer made no mention that they were not returning on Saturday. Fighting for Mental Health, Domestic Violence, Child Care, Parental Care Leave, provisions. Marcelo's table next meeting Jan 20th.
- Nancy Sermons – National Women's Conference April 3-5, 2020. Application deadline is Nov 1st. Apply online, will be notified mid-January.
- T. Mark Miller – asking PSAC BC to send message out on “Do's & Don'ts for picket lines” for any locals that may be affected by Commissionaires in case of strike.
- suggestions by several members in agreement with T. Mark Miller, that a generic picket line / strike information package would be helpful for members to learn (or be reminded) of what to do/not do, in case of strike by any union.
- Angela George – would also like to see any information regarding strike action (Federal, Provincial, or any other union), as many of her members are new to the union.
- Marlene Stevens – thanks to everyone for information.
- Giselle Henry – had a union election recently, and looking for a “rundown” of information for various positions that she could provide to people newly elected into positions. Giselle expressed appreciation for the Thirsty for Justice campaign poster displayed in the PSAC office. Also, a thank you to everyone.
- Trish Martin – for anyone wishing to have name in running at the next meeting (Nov 21st) for position of delegate at BC Regional Convention in May, please forward your name to James Little or Rosemary MacKenzie, along with a Nominator and a Secunder.

Meeting adjourned by consensus at 1911hr.