

Vancouver Area Council Meeting – February 7, 2013

In attendance - *Executive Officers*: Jamey M., Aaron C., Stephen A., Terri L., Erica Y. (arrived at point 3); *Delegates*: Martha F. (GSU 20008), Sigrid H. (UTE 20027), Shawna B. (UNE 20088); *Staff*: Monica U. (minutes)

Regrets: Sam W., Sharon T., Paul C., Tracy S., Angela D., Marion M., Katie M., Jennifer H.

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Previous minutes
3. Area Council monthly actions
4. Member-at-Large vacancy
5. Affiliate Reports
6. Other – JR fundraising request

Call to Order – Jamey 5:30 pm

1. Introductions

The members of the Area Council warmly welcomed the new delegate from GSU 20008, Martha. People noted that that local's previous delegate, Fe, will be missed. A round of introductions were conducted.

2. Previous minutes

Reviewed minutes. Need to correct Component acronym to CEIU where necessary. m/s/c (Stephen, Aaron)

3. Area Council monthly actions

Monica explained that people may recall that this was an idea that was generated after the October AGM. Since then we have generated three monthly "actions" which have primarily been on-line, but tied to an affiliated local, or a local/branch under VAC jurisdiction. Past actions included opposing the changes to the Grain Act (affecting AGR 20060), privatization of CRA records (concern raised by UTE 20027 and affecting UNE 20088), continued but different campaign about Library and Archives Canada (affecting UNE 20088).

Jamey led a brainstorm to help generate ideas for the next half a year of monthly actions. These actions could include events as well, not just on-line actions. The results of the discussion are as follows:

February – help promote the **newly** forming BC Mainland Young Workers Committee. (Note: Since this meeting, Jamey, as President, decided that we would still encourage participation, but had the Area Council support the letter to Stephen Harper campaign about the closure of the Kitsilano Coast Guard Base.)

March – Highlight the CEIU “The Neglected” campaign. The VAC has at least 2 CEIU locals affiliated to it. Stephen Armstrong agrees that the quote he submitted can be used in the call out to help make that personal connection and encourage people to action. **ACTION: Stephen to send Monica his quote.**

April – possibly host an all-candidates meeting around the upcoming Provincial Election. Maybe ask the Youth Caucus to co-sponsor/co-organize? The invite will go to all provincial parties, could open it up to the community, possibly have others co-sponsor/co-organize as well. Target for the second week of April. **ACTION: Jamey to raise the idea with the Regional Council. If there is positive buy-in, will then contact the Area Council for volunteers to help organize the event. This may be via conference call.**

May – definitely organize our VAC presence for May Day. It is on a Wednesday this year. Support provincial election campaigns. E-day is May 14.

June – organize a PSAC-sponsored National Public Services Week (NPSW) baseball game. Similar to what Victoria did last year. Participate (if we’re not boycotting) NPSW tradeshow. Also plan to participate at Car-Free Festivals.

August – hold our annual VAC barbeque at Trout Lake. **ACTION: Jamey to book the park.**

Ongoing – Monica spoke about the possibility to continue our “targeted” emails, primarily to the MPs in BC that are part of the Federal Government, cc’ing to the members’ own MP. Group decided to try to create letters when any new cut is announced. Even if the message is short, like “We are all affected and we don’t agree with your cuts”, and direct it to the Minister of that Department/Agency, and/or BC MPs with responsibilities in that area, etc. **ACTION: Monica to check with Patrick if we have the auto-email MP software. Also, the group wanted to ask Patrick if we track how many people are participating in our auto-email campaigns. For example, our very first action in November on the Grain Act?**

4. Member-at-large vacancy

Julie Bussiere has moved to Vancouver Island and as a result has stepped down from her position as Member-at-Large on the Executive. Shawna Bundac (nominated by Jamey, seconded by Erica) was acclaimed as the new Member-at-Large.

5. Affiliate reports

CEIU 20938 – Aaron reported that he represented his local at the BC Fed and marched with a large delegation of trade unionists. Great opportunity to get our “We Are All Affected” campaign out to over 1,500 people. He is working with his CEIU-NVP on Terms of Reference for locals in his component. Stephen shared that CIC is very active with mental health awareness, providing half day workshops, with great support from management, which translates to good participation from employees.

GSU 20008 – Martha reported that their local had their AGM in November. There is a new Local President, and the previous president is now a vice-president. Martha generated some good discussion during the meeting on how to attract members to get involved in the union.

UNE 20088 – Shawna shared that her local appreciates the support the VAC has given, especially to their Library and Archives members. In her workplace there is one new term worker and it seems only terms are being hired even though national competitions are running.

UTE 20027 – Jamey shared their AGM happened two weeks ago and resulted in a continuing executive with two new directors. One who is younger and got involved because he saw what the local was doing for the members who may have lost their jobs with the HST/PST reversion (most were placed elsewhere in CRA), so thought he should step up and get involved! Participated in UTE’s national health and safety conference, theme was on mental health and bullying. Was selected to attend CLC Political Action Conference for BC. Sigrid also shared some recent positive developments. 10 new people acting, 3 appointments, 2 temporary later moves, and 1-WFA person accepted into her area. Did a decision review for a young woman who is now interested in getting involved in the union. Also helped someone return to work after being off for 1 ½ years, and that person is also now interested in getting involved!

CEIU 20949 – Erica’s multi-language unit may come to an end next fiscal year, but the employer is saying it won’t be a WFA. People will just be shuffled into other offices. Term freeze is still ongoing, current terms only have contracts until the end of March. There are a couple of staffing boards going on, but unsure if it will be for term or indeterminate positions. Hoping to go to the PSAC National Health & Safety Conference.

There was some discussion at this point on how many delegates BC actually gets to go to this conference. If people plan to go as an observer (which is at their own cost), you may approach the VAC as a possible funding source. We cannot cover the entire cost but can consider part of the cost.

AGR 20044 – Terri had her local's AGM at the RO where approximately 30 people attended. There are two new people on the executive. Employment Transition is still underway at CFIA. CFIA is still in bargaining. The team is submitting to the Public Interest Commission (PIC) next week. The Treasury Board TC unit's PIC report is out, perhaps CFIA's results will be similar. Current bargaining mobilization is a message from CFIA's own website on their staff, mouse pads read "We are competent, qualified and motivated" with the team's additional message of "Respect Us!" Terri also shared that as RVP she also attended the AGR 20060's AGM, and given the recent changes to the Grain Act she had hoped members would be banding together. Unfortunately divisions still exist. WFA letters will be going to approximately 100 GLs, 50-60 Inspectors by mid-February/early March.

Monica shared that there is a WFA/ETP course coming up at the end of February, but that as a region we are still providing short WFA/ETP lunch sessions for locals, on demand, so contact your Regional Representative.

6. Other

a) Janet Routledge fundraising request – Janet Routledge was a former Regional Coordinator for BC for many years, and is a long-time labour activist. She is currently running as the NDP candidate for North Burnaby. There is a fundraiser scheduled for February 23, and would cost \$125/person to attend.

Motion: To purchase one \$125 ticket for an Area Council member to attend this fundraising event. This cost to be taken from the donations line item of the budget. (m/s/c Jamey/Stephen)

Stephen volunteered to attend on behalf of the VAC. **ACTION: Monica to communicate with Sharon Tieman (VAC Treasurer) to purchase the ticket and get it to Stephen as soon as possible).**

Motion to adjourn – 6:50 pm