

**Victoria Regional Women's Committee
General Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2013**

Attendance: Virginia Vaillancourt, Brenda Esplen,,Jeannette Lum, Kay Ahmadi, Fiska Duguay, Tammy Dickeson, Rosemary MacKenzie.

Regrets: Astrid Stoker, Cindy Little, Sharon Hazelwood, Vanessa Miller

Virginia Vaillancourt called the meeting to order at 5.35 PM.

Introductions

Round table introductions of the members in attendance. Virginia welcomed Tammy and stated PSAC had said that it was fine for Tammy to join our committee but she cannot attend courses/conferences or conventions and has no vote on committee.

Review of January 10, 2013 Minutes

A review of the previous meeting minutes took place at this time. Virginia advised the committee that she still has not received the donation for our December 6th event from the Vancouver Island Human Rights Committee and that their President is following up. Brenda stated she did not receive the donation from Union of Canada Transport Employees. Virginia advised the cheque was made out in her name and the funds were used to purchase goods for the transition house.

Motion: Kay Ahmadi made the motion to accept the previous minutes.

Seconded: Jeannette Lum.

Carried: Unanimously

March 8th Event - International Women's Day

The event will be held from 5.30 to 9 p.m at the Victoria Regional PSAC office and it is open to all our women colleagues.

Virginia said a few years ago we decorated the office, had a movie, lots of food and a chair massage, which enabled attendees to enjoy a ten-minute session, which was nice.

A discussion was held what we should do for this year's event and it was decided we would have a movie night and a potluck (each member would bring in a international dish which represents their culture). A poster will be sent out to advertise the event with an RSVP. We should encourage members of our local women's committee to attend the event. Virginia will also be promoting the event at the next Area Council (February 12th) and Human Rights meetings (February 19th).

Tammy and Kay will look at the movies they have and email Virginia the title and the length of the movies. Virginia will also contact the PSAC office in Vancouver to see if they have any movies we could borrow.

Virginia asked if we wanted to do a craft night for another event as there is a pottery place in Langford. She will talk to Daniel (the owner) to see if we can do a diva's night there.

Victoria RWC 2013 Budget

Conference	\$250.00
Meetings	\$400.00
Donations	\$200.00
Guest Speaker	\$100.00
Events	\$500.00
Total	<u>\$1,450.00</u>

Motion: Jeannette Lum made the motion to accept the 2013 budget.

Seconded: Kay Ahmadi.

Carried: Unanimously

Treasurer's Report

Brenda provided a year-end financial summary for the committees' chequing and equity accounts.

Motion: Virginia Vaillancourt made the motion to accept the financial reports.

Seconded: Jeannette Lum.

Carried: Unanimously

PSAC BC Regional Women's Conference

The conference will be held on May 3rd to May 5th, 2013 at the Sheraton Airport Hotel in Richmond, BC. The theme for this year's conference is going to be an aboriginal theme - "*PSAC BC Women Hold More Than Half the Sky*" and Fiska Duguay has volunteered to help out with the meet and greet on Friday night. If we had any ideas for the meet and greet, we should email them to Virginia before February 17, 2013.

Virginia thought it would be nice if our regional committee purchased a guest speaker's gift. As this year's theme is aboriginal, there is an aboriginal carver near Virginia's house and we could look at what the cost would be and how much time is needed for him to make something for us that reflects the theme of this year's conference and have our committee name on it.

Also our committee may be asked to provide a basket for the raffle, last time our basket was about Victoria (had blankets, hats, etc in it) and this year there will be no drink tickets at the meet and greet.

Rosemary suggested if we get one of the artist's work, we could raffle it off and any funds we raise can go to one of the organizations we support. Virginia suggest the funds could be given to a aboriginal transition house which she knows of and maybe invite Diane from the transition house to come to our May/June meeting and talk about the work they do.

Resolutions

Virginia stated in the past, the women's conference had received some resolutions but not a ton. Our committee should look at some resolutions at our next meeting (March 8, 2013), in order to pass them so they can be forwarded to the women's conference. Virginia asked if there were any resolutions that the members felt should be put forward.

Jeannette asked at the last regional women's conference some resolutions were put up, what happened to them. Virginia advised the committee, any resolution that was put forward was dealt with at the Regional Conference and then sent to the National Women's Conference for further debate. The resolutions were then forwarded to the PSAC Triennial Convention. None of the Women's resolutions hit the floor at that convention. Attempts have been made to have resolutions heard at the Triennial Convention but they never seem to hit the floor, any resolutions, which have no costing, are then forwarded to the NBoD of PSAC to review.

Virginia advised the committee that she would work on a resolution regarding the "family day" to the conference. PSAC has been lobbying the federal government for many years to try and get that day as a national day but it has not happened. Virginia felt if the resolution came from the women's committee it would be a benefit and we could try to push it forward.

Virginia mentioned that she suggested to the organizing committee that if they did not receive a high volume of resolutions, then maybe they can put on a workshop on how to write a resolution and what information needs to be in the resolution.

Reference Book

Virginia stated while at the leadership submit she saw a book called "Feminism for Real" - decoding the academic industrial complex of feminism. The book costs \$20 (includes shipping and tax) and has 176 pages.

"When feminism becomes its own form of oppression, what do we have to say about it. Western notions are polite. Of course, is not the norm for all of us. Just because we got a new and hot language and equity movements like feminism, such as intersectionality and the use in talk does not necessarily make things change in our walk, i.e., being actually raciest. Confronting the sometimes-uncomfortable questions, feminism has made us ask about what is going on for real. In the past has brought the contributors together to share their sometimes-uncomfortable truth, not what feminism but who they really are and where they are coming from."

Virginia suggested we get a few books - have one for our committee to use as a resource document and maybe give one away as a gift.

Motion: Virginia Vaillancourt made the motion that we purchase 2 copies of this book for our committee.

Seconded: Fiska Duguay

Carried: Unanimously

Round Table

Virginia mentioned she had misplaced a \$50 receipts for the nail clippers she purchased for the Sandy Merrimen house. The committee agreed to accept a copy of her bank statement showing the purchase for our book keeping purpose.

Jeannette suggest to make our resolutions more powerful, we should get other groups to support us, so we can get our voice out there.

Virginia advised the members that back in January she put forward to the organizing committee that a call out letter should be sent to all local committees, etc, to submit resolutions to our women's committee and we would vote on them and forward them to the regional conference. Unfortunately this was not done, so she will work on the letters, send it to the organizing committee and then ask PSAC will send them to the local committees.

Rosemary advised the committee the regional office is moving across the hall and it will be a little bigger. The office will be the first door on the left when you get off the elevator and the boardroom will be in front of our old office.

The Vancouver office asked Rosemary if we had a plaque of when the Victoria Regional Women's Committee became duly constituted. Rosemary found one that showed the charter for PSAC Vancouver Island Women's committee was signed November 7, 1989.

Motion: Rosemary made a motion that on November 7, 2014 we hold an event to celebrate our 25th anniversary.

Seconded: Kay Ahmadi

Carried: Unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 P.M.