

**Victoria Regional Women's Committee
Annual General Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2012**

Attendance: Virginia Vaillancourt, Cindy Little, Brenda Esplen, Anita Hoffman, Lynn Cullen, Leanne Hughes, Jeannette Lum, Janelle Ho-Shing, Kay Ahmadi, Rosemary MacKenzie.

Teleconference: Kelly Megyesi

Regrets: Astrid Stoker, Vanessa Sandsmark

Virginia Vaillancourt called the meeting to order at 5.38 PM.

Introductions

Round table introductions of the members in attendance and guest Janelle Ho-Shing, Regional Rep from Vancouver who has the Women's Portfolio for BC.

Treasurer's Report

Brenda provided a financial summary of the committees' chequing and equity accounts.

7th Annual Sisters in Spirit Vigils on October 4, 2012

Virginia provided a list of the events /vigils taking place in BC. There will be an event held at Camosum College at 1 PM and a Victoria Stolen Sisters Memorial march at University of Victoria. PSAC supports these events and has signed on the Native Women's Association of Canada collective statement and the vigils are to honour over 600 women that are missing or murdered in Canada. Virginia stated she will try to attend these events and encouraged the other members to attend or hold a moment of silence in their place of employment to show support for the women that have gone missing.

Elections

The chair of the meeting was turned over to Janelle to run the elections.

Chair Virginia Vaillancourt

Secretary Kay Ahmadi

Treasurer Brenda Esplen

Note: Virginia advised the committee as Brenda just recently retired, she has a request out to the Regional Executive Vice President of BC to find out if Brenda can remain on our committee and hold a position as she has been very active. The committee have already discussed this and they do not want to loss her as she is an asset to the committee. Virginia stated Bob Jackson is going to Ottawa next week and he is going to talk to Robyn Benson the National President of PSAC to get a ruling. It was decided until we get the ruling Brenda would act as our treasurer.

Janelle administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected executive.

2012/2013 Meeting Dates

October 23, 2012

November 20, 2012 – **National Child Care Day**

December 6, 2012 – **Candle Light Vigil Event**

January 10, 2013

February 7, 2013

March 8, 2013 - **IWD**

May 7, 2013

June 13, 2013

September 18, 2013

October 17, 2013 – **Annual General Meeting**

November 6, 2013

December 6, 2013 – **Candle Light Vigil Event**

Review of June 21, 2012 Minutes

A review of the previous meeting minutes took place at this time.

Motion: Anita Hoffman made the motion to accept the previous minutes.

Carried: Unanimously.

December 6 Event

Virginia indicated that on September 24, 2012, she attended the Victoria Labour Council Women's meeting, where she met with a lady from Canada Post who had kindly helped out with our candle light vigil last year, a BCGEU women's representative, and a shop steward from BC Ferry. Virginia provided the people attending the Victoria Labour Council Women's meeting with information regarding the "Sisters In Spirit Vigils, what we have done for the last three years for our December 6th event and what we are planning to do this year. Virginia also shared information about the Red Umbrella Rally Event; which takes place on International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers. The Red Umbrella challenges violence against sex workers. Last year Virginia went out to march and rally which was organized by PEERS; and this year Virginia would like to see a larger PSAC contingency in attendance to show our Solidarity Against Violence.

The Victoria Labour Council Women's committee offered to join us and help out to make it a wider multi union event and they are going to start spreading the word about our event to their members. The lady from BC Ferry is going to talk to some of the parent advisory committees about starting donation bins at the schools, so the kids could bring in none perishable food items that can be donated to the Women's Organizations in Victoria.

Virginia advised the members that for the last three years we held our December 6 event at the legislature but due to Harper having a Canada wide Christmas tree lighting on that day, we were unable to get the legislative for our event, therefore this year's event will be held at Centennial Square. This area is booked from 4.30 to 7.00 pm and the event will be held from 5.30 to 6.30 pm. This will give us time to set up and clean up.

Notes:

1. Virginia has spoken with Black press about our advertising, explained to the office manger that we are a non profit organization, we are trying to support the Women's Organizations in Victoria, the funds used for advertising could be used for the women's shelter, therefore we are looking for a good deal. The office manager will talk with the lady Virginia dealt with last year to see what they can do.
2. Last year we released 14 balloons into the air to represent the women that last their lives in 1989, which was not environmentally friendly, but it made a huge statement and people are still talking about it.
3. A suggestion from the labour council was we could do a dove release. There is a organization in Victoria that do ceremonial dove release. Whether we do this depends on the cost, permission from city hall, the weather, etc. Virginia will talk to the City of Victoria to see if we can place lanterns in or around the rim of the fountain and after the ceremony we would remove them.

Planning updates:

- ⤴ The letters that we usually send out has been redrafted and will be sent out via PSAC to all of the locals and other committees asking for donation to help with the event and also a donation to the women's shelters.
- ⤴ The poster for the event should be finalized and sent out via email to the members by October 1, 2012. The members were asked to print and place the poster everywhere we can think of to promote the event.
- ⤴ For the speakers, Virginia will contact mayor Fulton, maybe a NDP candidate if the elections are over and will ask Janelle Ho-Shing and Bob Jackson if they would come over and speak at the event.
- ⤴ 14 people are needed to read the names – so far Virginia has 2 members from the labour council and Steve from UNDE and his fiancée who have volunteered to read names. Each reader will carry a picture of the person whose name they just read.

Motion: Virginia Vaillancourt made the motion for the committee to spend \$600 to order new buttons, candles and labels for the December 6th event.

Carried: Unanimously.

Lobbying MP's

For the last two years Gary Fraser had help us when we lobbied the MP's. At the present we have not contacted the Vancouver PSAC office to see if they had a representative who could come with us to do the lobbying again. We will look into the lobbying in the new year.

The meeting was adjourned at 6.47 PM.