

Vancouver Island Regional Women's Committee
General Meeting
April 15, 2020 @ 5:45 pm

Teleconference Meeting Due to COVID

Attendees:

Maria Moraes	USJE 20174	Giselle Henry	USJE 2C086
Kay Ahmadi Treasurer	UTE 20028	Kelly Sidhu	BC Regional Council Women's Coordinator
Nancy Sermons Vice Chair	DCL 20500	Victoria Ye	AGR 20064
Kahla Lichti	UNDE 21016	Leanne Hughes	CIU 20042
Kuldeep Deol Secretary	GSU 20001	Terri Phelan?	UVAE 20030
Karolyn Jones Chair	UCTE 20220	Marlene ?	
Kristina MacLean	UNDE 21008		

Regrets: no regrets received.

Call to order:

Karolyn called the meeting to order at 5:48pm

1. Adoption of Agenda:

Motion to accept: Karolyn Jones

Seconded: Victoria Ye

CARRIED

Kristina MacLean agreed to take minutes for this meeting.

2. Review and Approval of February 12 2020 meeting minutes:

Motion to accept: Karolyn Jones

Seconded: Kristina MacLean

CARRIED

3. Old Business:

- Dec 6th Candle Light Vigil

Nancy was extremely pleased with the success of the event. There were several speakers along with Virginia Vaillancourt, National President, Union of Veterans Affairs Employees.

Approximately 40-50 people attended the event. Over \$2 000.00 was raised with donations coming in during the evening of the event along with the support of the Victoria Area Council plus some Locals.

Thank you to all the volunteers involved for making it somber successful event. Kudos to Nancy for leading the event and special shout to Virginia for coming out.

- International Women's Day

Karolyn reached out by way of email and tele-communications to the various components and locals to field ideas. No locals reached out or called her back.

For 2022, we agreed to help and volunteer where possible as a committee.

- 2021 Budget

Nancy led the budget review and the discussion to reallocate and reduce the amount initially requested. We agree to reduce much of the donations, mileage, and food budget due to the cancelled and continued anticipated cancelling of large public gatherings. Nancy will provide a hardcopy of this to the Chair once finished.

We motioned to accept the budget as amended.

Motion: Mariah Moraes

Seconded: Karolyn Jones

CARRIED

- Women's Mental Health Activity

Due to Covid-19 health orders, it was decided to cancel this year's intention to plan activities for Women's Mental Health. It was recognized that the current crisis is leaving many women without therapeutic support in the community. Discussion ensued.

4. New Business

- Budget Changes

Budget review Budget Request from \$1,700.00 to \$2,700.00

ACTION: Kay to update budget and re-submit to Nancy.

ONGOING/See Old Business

Motion to accept Annual Budget Request with changes as noted.

Motion: Terri

2nd: Marlene

CARRIED

- Funding Request

Kahla raised a request for funding for an upcoming women in trades conference. Kahla will provide details to the committee for consideration. As Kahla is an active member of the committee, Karolyn will confirm ethics policies with Regional.

- Committee Executive Positions

Committee executives can resign their seats by informing the President. The President can appoint a replacement. **ONGOING**

- Covid-19 and Women

Much of the meeting was discussion around COVID and how it is impacting the work of the committee and each person's work and home life. It was recognized that events like Pride parade and multicultural activities (calendar) that were planned for this year are unlikely to happen. The ongoing impact on women was discussed: expected increase in domestic violence, private industry layoffs and impact of high exposure rates for 'essential services' such as non-union grocery workers and janitors – often women. How the women's committee could support those in need during the Covid-19 crisis was discussed.

Nancy shared the following example from her local: Commissionaires are most often in public-facing essential service positions. As the President of her local, Nancy spearheaded her union's purchase of PPE masks for use by Commissionaires – both union and non-union. It was agreed that this is an innovative, inspiring and useful way to support all workers.

It was decided to hold a meeting in a month to review this topic. The next meeting in May is for this reason.

5. Next meeting: **May 13th 2020 5:45pm**

Motion for Adjournment: Karolyn Jones

Seconded: Nancy Sermons

CARRIED @ 7:30Pm