

**PSAC VICTORIA AREA COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
January 20, 2015
PSAC Victoria Regional Office**

Members Present:

Ken Waldron – UNDE 21013	Colleen Girard – UNDE 21008
Scott Parker – UTE 20028	Lance Jesson – UNDE 21016
Astrid Stoker – CIU 20042	Julie Bussiere – CEIU 20941
Kuldeep Deol – GSU 20001	Elizabeth Oliphant – UEW 20076
Jim Sidel – DCL 20500	Patricia Martin – CEIU 20975
Ernest Hooker – UCTE 20220	Leanne Hughes – CIU 20042

Regrets

Nic Humphreys – UEW 20169	Jack Gale – GSU 20001
Marcelo Lazaro – UNDE 21016	Wayne Little – UTE 20028
Virginia Vaillancourt – UVAE 20030	

PSAC Victoria RO Staff Present:

Dave Jackson – PSAC Rep

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Call to Order	Chairperson Sister Patricia Martin called the meeting to order at approximately 1736hr. Roundtable introductions of members present.	
2. Previous Minutes	Motion to adopt previous minutes from March 12, 2014. M/S/C Sidel/Girard. Motion to accept AGM minutes as amended from October 22, 2014. M/S/C Parker/Sidel.	
3. Financial Update	Brother Waldron reviewed financials: \$500 was put towards Stop The Violence Vigil. \$250 towards the Meet &Greet. \$80.83 tonight for refreshments /snacks. Thirteen locals affiliated with VAC for this fiscal year. No allocation yet from Regional Office (not until the 22 nd). Net balance is \$6,809.94 currently. Motion that VAC accept financial update as presented. M/S/C Waldron/ Girard.	
4. Regional Council Political Action	Political Action Committee item was to be presented by Brother Humphreys, however he was unable to attend tonight's meeting.	
5. Election Preparation Conferences	Sister Martin spoke to the Election Preparation Conference in Nanaimo. PSAC will cover travel expenses (loss of salary if there is loss; hotel; mileage; per diem) for 2 people to attend from VAC. Conference runs on Fri, Mar 6th from	

	<p>7pm-9pm and Sat, Mar 7th all day at the Coast Bastion Hotel. Conference is free to attend. Conference designed to help members with getting messages out there for campaigning/elections. Sister Martin asked for those interested to identify themselves.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brother Waldron, Sister Martin and Sister Bussiere expressed interest. <p>Brother Waldron reminded VAC that there is a line in the VAC budget for political action, which could be used to fund the third person.</p> <p>Motion to send another member of VAC to the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) political action workshop in Nanaimo for March 6th & 7th; and VAC would fund the member for mileage, incidentals and per diem.</p> <p>M/S/C Girard/Deol.</p> <p>It was established that Sister Martin would be the member funded by VAC.</p>	
<p>6. Other Items</p>	<p>1) Brother Waldron served notice of intent (at VAC AGM on October 22, 2014) to submit By-Law changes at this meeting:</p> <p>First proposal is to change the 1 year term for the VAC Executive to 2 year terms [see handout, Section IV: Composition of Executive Committee]. The terms would run alternately (to avoid a complete change in the Executive each year), where the President & Secretary would be elected in alternate years to the Treasurer & Vice President. In order to achieve this, at the next AGM it would mean the VP & Treasurer would be elected for 1 year, and the President & Secretary for 2 years. Also, we need to delete in Section IV, “The term of office is normally 1 year from Annual General Meeting to Annual General Meeting.”</p> <p>The second proposal is regarding Finances [see handout, Section VIII: Finances]. On direction from the PSAC BC Regional Office, we need to delete Section VIII, Subsection 4, “The Victoria Regional Office staff may also have signing authority.” As per the request of the Credit Union, the name of the group has to say “PSAC” [not “PSAC Victoria Area Council”] because we get better interest rates by lumping the money together. However, to achieve this higher interest rate the names have to be exactly the same. As per Section VIII, Subsection (3), there has to be written approval from PSAC.</p> <p>Brother Waldron has introduced these By-Law changes</p>	

	<p>Suggestion to send out notice for softball tournament early in February, and then a second reminder notice closer to June.</p>	
<p>7. Round Table</p>	<p>Consensus from members who attended the Stop the Violence Vigil was that it was well attended, and very touching with the brother of one of the victims speaking at the vigil. There is a permanent memorial in place now. Regional Women’s Committee represented the women who were killed in the massacre at the vigil.</p> <p>Discussion regarding options in case of an early federal election. Suggestion for a checklist to be made to assist local presidents for what to do if there is an early election. Also, suggestion to use this time to get members involved at the local level. Sister Girard sent an email to members through work email (with consent of management) asking members to provide home emails and reinforcing that home email would only be used by PSAC and local executive. She then shared list with Sister MacKenzie and keeps updated each month. Brother Jackson reminded members there is mobilization training on February 2nd with PSAC.</p> <p>Brother Jackson shared a member’s comment at training that sick leave is important, but it is an “internal issue” as public does not support our fight for sick leave. Need to engage the public in a different way in order to gain support.</p> <p>Sister Girard mentioned Global Day of Action for the Right to Strike on February 18th. Looking to organize their members to combine this event with their February Day of Action.</p> <p>Brother Waldron spoke of intense meetings in Ottawa with ship’s crew (SV) bargaining. They are looking to add April 1st as a standard date for all calculations (anniversary date, etc) as it is hard to calculate and keep track of multiple dates for all employees. They have also received no increase in dollar amounts for allowances for years and are now asking for a “factor” instead of a dollar amount (instead of negotiating these amounts every contract) using rates already calculated each year.</p> <p>Discussion regarding mental health programs in place at worksites, and initiatives to increase workplace mental health. There are a variety of courses available. Some locals</p>	

	also put on lunch seminars.	
8. Meeting Adjourned	Motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 1900hr. M/S/C Martin/Girard.	

 Sister Patricia (Trish) Martin
 President

 Sister Astrid Stoker
 Recording Secretary