

## **Vancouver Area Council Meeting – June 4, 2014 (Amended)**

Attendees: Jamey Mills (UTE 20027), Aaron Chung (CEIU 20938), Crystal Warner (CEIU 20974), Jessica Kerek (CIU 20040), Terri Lee (AGR20044), Shane Polak (UVAE 20045), Kieran Kennedy (UTE 20027), Ferzana Samnani (UTE 20027), Shawna Bundac (UNE 20088), Tracy Shudo (CEIU 20949), Jen Horsley (UPCE 20095), Amit Deo (UNE 20088), Christine Aw Jeong (AGR 20044)

Guest: Sam Wiese

Staff: Deana Kimball

Regrets: Bob Jackson, Todd Smith (AGR), Frank Anez, Leslye Brown, Sharon Tieman (UPCE), Katie Moran (CEIU)

Meeting called to order: 5:35pm  
Chair: Jamey Mills

### **Agenda:**

- Minutes of Previous Meeting
- Election of Secretary
- Introductions
- Surprise – Guest Sam Wiese
- Political Action Summit Debrief
- Political Action Motion
- Bargaining
- Round Table / Affiliate Reports
- Education

### **Minutes:**

Minutes of previous meeting were distributed to the Council before the meeting started and were briefly reviewed, Jamey asked for any errors or omissions. M/S/C Tracy, Crystal

Acceptance of Agenda: M/S/C Crystal, Terri

Election of Secretary:

Vacancy for position of Secretary on the Area Council created by resignation of Erica Yang when she left the Public Service to move on to new things.

Jennifer Horsley nominated by Crystal Warner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tracy Shudo, Acclaimed

### **Introductions:**

As there were a number of new faces present on the Vancouver Area Council due to local elections a round of introductions were done, each member around the table introducing themselves and what local they represented.

## **Surprise – Guest Sam Wiese**

Jamey introduced Sam to those who don't know her and spoke about her number of years of service and activism both on the Area Council and in the Union and Community. As a council we wanted to honor her upon her retirement. Jamey presented a card and gift on behalf of the Area Council.

Sam spoke on how she started as an activist and the importance of basic union education, especially TUB and Steward Training. Thanked the council which she was honored to be a member of for a very long time.

Bob sent his regrets, he had been delayed in Cranbrook.

## **Political Action Summit Debrief:**

Jamey discussed the Political Action Summit which had occurred the previous weekend in Richmond, there were about 50 people from all over the region in attendance. Topics covered at the summit included how to reach out to the media and how to write an effective letter to the editor, lobbying workshop and Area Council Planning Sessions for the different areas. It was a good opportunity to network and plan out the next year's actions and figure out what resources will be needed to carry out planned actions.

Jamey opened the floor to questions about the summit.

Shane asked a question about the Values and Ethics policy and about being involved in political parties or actions and asked if this was addressed at the summit.

Jamey answered that it was not directly addressed, but that as long as you don't disparage the employer and say that you are representing the union you should be fine, eg. "I represent PSAC Area Council or I am a concerned citizen"; also, don't release confidential information in your comments/letter

Jamey suggested asking for a "myth buster" from individual components on what you can and can't do vs. what the employer says you can or can't do.

Sam said should also look at the PSSRA (Public Service Staff Relations Act) section on Political Action for clarification, and also to be aware of your community visibility, what is your position in your community, are you in a large community or small?

Crystal suggested viewing the webcast available on the PSAC website re: your rights and also to call and ask someone from the PSAC/PSACBC/your Component. Also, you can send a letter to the editor, for example, in to Bob and he can submit it from himself to represent the union.

Terri said that you should proceed with caution when pursuing political action, it does depend on your employer, she had experienced being disciplined for political action in the past.

If you want an action done you could also bring it to Area Council and ask for help.

## **Political Action Motion (M/S/C) Crystal, Tracy**

Political Action – that the Vancouver and District Area Council take time at each meeting to commit to a political action and that this be a standing item on each future agenda. Unanimously Carried.

Discussion on what topics could be pursued

Sam - Civic Elections coming up Nov 15, 2014. The last civic elections had a scandalously poor turnout, may want to look at what PSAC will be doing and get involved. Need to encourage members to get out and vote.

Tracy suggested that this might be a good topic for Political Action time.

Jamey said that it might be better to address this topic to the membership rather than newspaper/media. Also, that the VDLC endorsements should be included once they come out.

## **Bargaining Info Sessions:**

Bargaining info sessions have started for units that have elected bargaining teams. In the sessions there is information being given to let members know the process and identifying what employers are going after. Bargaining demands have not yet been exchanged. Having anybody from bargaining teams talk to groups of Treasury Board employees, not necessarily someone specific to the group that is being given the Info Session, Had been 3 sessions held so far, good attendance, 45/20/20 members.

## **Affiliate Reports:**

### **UVAE LOCAL 20045 - VANCOUVER AREA COUNCIL REPORT -2014 06 04**

1. The local has created a Facebook Page: UVAE Local 20045 and PSAC members are welcome to like the page. The name of the page is UVAE Local 20045.
2. The local has now only 32 members and that a transition is going to take place as far as the TAC is concerned. All the TAC units across the country will cease to exist in August 2015. Medavie Blue Cross has won the bid for providing services for VAC. More contracting out. Nobody will lose their job as a result. Management indicates we will lose enough staff through attrition. The TAC Analysts will just become NCCN Analysts. The position of Manager in the West, Team Leaders and Coach will remain and will not be lost either, their being also Local members.
3. Veteran's Affairs is still reducing in size across the department via attrition. No plans for further WFA for the time being. However, workloads are not decreasing and the staff size is shrinking, so stress It is a Health and Safety issue that is not being well looked after by the Department.
4. The local participated in May Day by posing for a photo with the placards supporting bargaining.
5. We were advised by our NVP Bonnie Heidt that we no longer have the right to desk drop so we harvested home email addresses and are communicating with members in that way.

Shane Polák for Helio DaCosta

## **Amit Deo UNE 20088**

May Day rally participation in 5 work sites.

5 local delegates attended PSAC triennial convention.

UNE new initiative, national youth committee. Two members from my local on a six persons group. The purpose of this committee is to help promote and solicit youth interest and involvement.

## **UPCE 20095**

National Grievance put in for our local due to high incidence of employer not using progressive discipline and managing via security camera.

Recently had a Component Education session in Ottawa which I attended, great opportunity to meet UPCE members from across the country.

Health and Safety issue in the Richmond worksite, members are starting early, giving away their time but also no one knows they are there because of isolation of clerical area from other work groups in the building at the time.

Jennifer Horsley

## **CEIU local 20938 for the Vancouver Area Council:**

Local 20938 will have a JLP workshop in July on "Understanding the Collective Agreement". The union facilitator is Jessica Kerek. There will be 20 participants.

The Wellness Committee at local 20938 approached the local to seek financial support to organize activities to boost morale and improve the well-being of the membership. The local will support the committee on a reimbursement basis.

The CEN is in hiring mode. It is anticipated that about 24 staff members will be hired.

There is a CIC inventory open to applications from the public.

Aaron

## **Round Table:**

Tracy talked about Car Free Day, that we would have a booth at the Main Street event and that she would like to try out face painting as a community engagement project. That we could paint children's faces and then have a means to talk to the parents while the kids are engaged. She showed the Council the paints and stencils she had already purchased and requested to be reimbursed. Jamey suggested that a motion could be put forward to cover this and possible future events.

Motion: (M/S/C) Jamey, Jessica

That the Vancouver Area Council allocate up to \$200.00 for community engagement.

Jamey mentioned that there are funds available to affiliate to the VDLC or New West DLC to pay dues up to \$400.00 per year.

Crystal has created a Vancouver Area Council facebook page

Metro Vancouver Alliance – AGM June 5, 2014, we have a delegation attending. The research teams are up and running. In September there is a plan for a political forum. The MVA now represents 250, 000 people through their affiliations.

Public Service Week – PSAC softball tournament is on June 18<sup>th</sup>, deadlines to sign up are being extended in hopes of having more teams. If you don't have a team but still want to participate, get in touch, should be able to use people to fill in or create a composite team.

Car Free Day – June 15<sup>th</sup>, Main Street between 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>

Labour Day – Loverboy is playing, we are planning to be there. Will have someone show up early to set up and grab a good spot.

PSAC Barbeque – Decided that we will host it on Saturday August 16, 2014

Young Workers Committee is seriously depleted because members are turning 30 and aging out. Contact Shawna Bundac or Daphne Ho. Please encourage young workers in your locals to join.

Thanks to Crystal for providing the food tonight.

Thanks to Tracy and Shawna who are both on leave for giving their personal time to the Council.

### **Regional Education:**

Deanna asked for input from the members of the VAC for the fall schedule. Need suggestions by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Deanna is going to be part of building schedule and will be communicating with Monica who will be back in August.

### **Finances:**

Jamey mentioned that Sharon (treasurer) was unable to make it but that we currently have \$4523.67 in day to day account and over \$3000.00 in T-Bills.

Jamey said that there's always room for APSAR (retired members) to be active with us.

Motion to Adjourn (M/S/C) Tracy, Jen

Adjourned at 7:20 PM