

Vancouver and District Area Council Meeting January 14, 2015

In Attendance:

Cheryl Oenema(UCTE 20219), Colin Van Haar(AGR 20060), Crystal Warner(CEIU 20974), Jamey Mills (UTE 20027), Todd Smith(AGR 20044), Sandra Wasilewski(CEIU 20949), Mandy Chahal(CEIU 20974), Sharon Tieman(UPCE 20101), Ruby Langan(UNE 20150), Jen Horsley(UPCE 20095), Kelly Sidhu(CEIU 20944), Monica Urrutia(Staff), Patrick Bragg(Staff – Guest Speaker), Karen Hall (PIPSC – Guest)

Regrets:

Terri Lee, Monica Angell, Shane Polak, Ferzana Samani, Jessica Kerek, Christine Au-Yeong

Meeting Called to Order at 5:30 PM

Agenda:

- Ratify Motions (Irene/Todd/Dec 6)
- Election Info
- VAC Planning
- Sandra Motion
- Local Reports
- Education
- MVA – Transit Meeting
- February Meeting
- Rank and File Motion

Motion to Ratify Motions passed via email (content below) (M/S/C) (Jamey/Crystal)

1. *Endorsement for President of BC Federation of Labour
Sent October 30, 2014, decided by November 5, 2014*

I move that the PSAC Vancouver and District Area Council endorse Irene Lanzinger for President at the BC Federation of Labour convention in November 2014.

Rational: Irene has been a supporter of the PSAC and a capable and strong leader for the BC Fed. She will be the first public sector President of the Federation. She comes with experience as having been an affiliate president, BCTF, who is all too familiar with dealing with a hostile employer. She has the proven ability to mobilize her members in times of need and the capacity of garnering public support.

*M/S, Crystal Warner/Jamey Mills – **passed unanimously***

2. *Sent November 14, 2014, decided by November 17, 2014.*

We have a request from Angela Marafon on behalf of the Vancouver Women's Committee for \$50 to fund supplies for the December 6 event in Surrey.

*M/S, Jamey Mills/Frank Anez – **passed***

3. *Sent November 26, 2014, decided by December 3, 2014.*

November 19, 2014

Re: Request for funding to attend 2015 PSAC National Convention as an Observer

To: Vancouver and District Area Council

Dear Committee Members:

As an active PSAC (Agriculture Union Local 20044) member I am writing to request funding to attend the 2015 PSAC National Convention as an observer.

Attending the convention as an observer would be a great opportunity to witness the resolutions we passed at the regional convention be discussed on the floor, network with other activists, and learn from the amazing people that will be there. I feel this experience will better equip me to engage and mobilize our members as I will be a better resource for information on the democratic process of our union.

I would like to request \$300 in funding from the Vancouver and District Area Council for attendance as an observer to the 2015 national convention.

Budget:

Flight: (Air Canada; economy fare): \$950

7 nights accommodation: \$630 (will try to find shared accommodation to reduce cost)

Ground transportation: \$100

Meals and incidentals (7 days, PSAC travel directive rates): \$599

Event registration: \$300

Loss of Salary: \$1000 (willing to take volunteer day, personal day, and annual leave to help with cost)

Total: \$3579.00

Funding applied for:

Convention subsidy through regional council: \$500

Young Workers Committee: \$200

Mainland Human Rights Committee: \$200

Vancouver and District Area Council: \$300

Local 20044: Whatever the budget permits and executive approves. Estimate unknown.

Total: \$1200

In Solidarity,

Todd Smith

M/S – Jamey Mills/Paul Croes – **passed**

Introduction of Guest – Karen Hall from PIPSC

Karen was given an opportunity to speak at the opening of the meeting. She talked about her position in PIPSC within her local and the solidarity activities that she and Cheryl Oenema have been putting on at their worksite. Thanked us for the opportunity to attend the VAC Meeting.

Election Info:

Jamey introduced Patrick.

Patrick spoke about the CLC Document “Federal Political Party Financing Rules, Third Party Advertising, Voter Contact and the Labour Movement” FAQ, which outlines changes that came about under Bill C-24 (*An Act to Amend the Canada Elections Act and the Income Tax Act (political financing)*). Patrick highlighted the FAQs that most directly affect the Vancouver Area Council and the political activities that we engage in as union members, including contributions to

campaigns, paying for attendance at political fundraising dinners, advertising and what records we need to keep when making calls to our members around election issues.

Patrick also spoke about the upcoming CLC Election Preparedness Conferences.

Nanaimo March 6-7, Vancouver March 13-14

These conferences will offer skills training and networking opportunities in the wider labour movement. The Vancouver event is being held at the Vancouver Coast Plaza Hotel. Will be 2 hours on Friday night, 7-9pm with a plenary session and reception afterwards. Saturday will be skills building workshops, participants can choose 2 of 6 workshops on offer. These include "Face to Face Skills in the Workplace and Community", "Effective Campaigning", "Basic Campaigning", "From Engagement to Action", "The Importance of Niche or Local Ethnic Media" and "Delivering Messages that Work".

There is full funding for three members of this Council to attend but we are also willing to partially fund if anyone else is interested in attending. Crystal also mentioned that for CEIU members there would be some funding available. Jamey opened the floor to ask who would like to attend, it unfortunately falls on the same date as the PSAC Convention Delegates pre-convention Caucus meeting, so delegates to convention will not be able to go.

Todd Smith, Cheryl Oenema and Sharon Tieman committed to go. Kelly Sidhu, Mandy Chahal and Ruby Langan also expressed interest. Patrick gave them registration information.

Jamey spoke to the importance of the the upcoming Federal Election. It is the election of elections, specifically and especially for public service employees, you are voting in your employer. We all as an Area Council need to engage our members and be prepared to give up some of personal time to phone banks. We are not sure if the election will be called early, signs are starting to point to no, but we need to be prepared that it can and will happen at any time. It is scary to put yourself out there and cold call our members, but we will have decent food and you'll have the support of your fellow union members, the phone banks will be at the Regional Office.

Action Item:

Crystal suggests that Jamey to send out an email to the VAC mailing list, calling members to action to come out to phone banks.

Vancouver Area Council Action Plan:

We need to make individual commitments to plan and participate in community/union events in 2015 so that we can spread out the responsibility and the participation so it isn't falling on the shoulders of just a few members of the Area Council. (Rearranged into chronological order).

May Day – May 1st (many of the Area Council members will be at Convention) – Colin

Softball Tournament – held on the Wednesday of Public Service Week, costs less than \$1000 and is a great member engagement event. – Jamey, Sandra, Ruby

Car Free Day – Main Street or Commercial Drive, falls on Father's Day – Jen (not primary) – Jamey will ask Terri if she would be willing to take this on again

Aboriginal Day – Ruby, Crystal, Cheryl

Canada Day – July 1st – or maybe attend Golden Spike Day – Crystal (if we do this event)

Pride – Sunday of the August long weekend – Todd, Mandy, Crystal

Labour Day – Crystal, Patrick, Sharon, Jen

Area Council BBQ – maybe make this a joint event with PIPSC, hold in August or early September – Jamey, Jen, Todd, Sharon (if it is in September)

Jamey opened the floor for suggestions for other member/public engagement events that we could participate in or put on. Todd suggested a Curling event in the winter or possibly a Bowling event later in the year, Jamey added that we could possibly make it a fundraiser for the MVA.

Crystal mentioned that CEIU was participating in the Labour Walk with Joey Hartman of the VDLC at 4:00 on February 27, invited VAC members to join in.

Crystal suggested that part of the budget for any event we participate in should be to provide for lunch, parking and childcare if needed for volunteers at events.

Sandra Motion:

Sandra Wasilewski puts forward a motion requesting funding of \$300.00 to attend the CLC Winter School at Harrison Hot Springs to take Union Counselling Level 1. (M/S/C) Jamey/Crystal

Local Reports:

In order to be included in the minutes, reports should be submitted via email to the Secretary, Jennifer Horsley, within 14 days of the meeting.

Cheryl Oenema (UCTE 20219) - AGM held in November. President and Vice President were acclaimed. Some new members on the executive.

JLP session held Jan 8/15. Understanding the Collective Agreement. Well attended, had a wait list will be scheduling another season.

Held a union solidarity event at Transports 800 Burrard location. Initiated by PIPSC. Organized by PIPSC, PSAC (UCTE, GSU, CEIU) and CAPE, with members from Transport Canada, PWGSC, CIC and Shared Services. Held on Dec 23rd at first coffee break. Really well attended, lots of great feed back. Had about 140 people. Looking to do another event in a he near future.

Jennifer Horsley (UPCE 20095) – attempted to hold AGM in November, poorly attended, did not make quorum, so we will be trying again on January 25. We have decided to bring in members from outside of the lower mainland (which will allow us to make quorum) and have rented a meeting room at the Radisson in Richmond. We are losing 3 clerical positions in our Sales department in Richmond, all of which are held by high seniority members, so there will be some bumping, and we are looking at possibly losing more positions in the spring.

Jamey Mills (UTE 20027)

-PIC completed. We are happy the recommendation was for a contract of more than 2 years. Bargaining resumes shortly.

-office is being relocated Jan 2017 to consolidate several locations. Main and Terminal in office to be built.

-AGM will be held 05FEB15

-ongoing plantgates to educate members on bargaining and importance of paid sick leave

Education:

The education schedule for the spring is out. Please advertise this to your members, mostly basic courses on offer because of all of the advanced courses that were offered in the fall and because the activist school at the end of the month is taking up a lot of resources.

MVA Transit Meetings:

It's time to hold the politician's feet to the fire and hold them to their promises around the Transit Referendum. The MVA is holding events in New Westminster and North Vancouver. New West is January 27th and North Vancouver is February 3. Please see their website for more details.

February Meeting:

We need to hold a meeting in February because of changes to the PSAC Constitution which came out of last convention that changed the Fiscal Year End. We need to make by-law changes so that we can come into line with these constitutional changes so that our fiscal year would run from January to December. In preparation for this meeting we will need to have the expenses prepared and audited from October to December 2014. Jamey asked for volunteers from members in good standing– Kelly and Cheryl will audit.

Next Meeting: February 25, 2015

Rank and File Motion:

Would like to make a motion to give one-time financial support to rankandfile.ca, which is an activist run and supported media website. The writers are union activists many of whom are not being paid for their reporting. They are trying to “break-in” to the Quebec media scene and need to pay for translation services in order to do this. The website is about labour telling our own stories, and would like to be able to offer stipends to those submitting stories as well. Please make sure to subscribe, every new subscriber builds their status as a media outlet.

Motion to donate \$100.00 to rankandfile.ca. (M/S/C) Jamey/Crystal

Round Table:

Crystal will follow up with info about the Labour History Walk.

Patrick – photo time, everyone get ready! Picture taken of the VAC members showing solidarity.

Jamey – VDLC – remember there is funding available (up to \$400) from PSAC to all affiliates to the VDLC, held the 3rd Tuesday of every month

Adjourned 7:11 PM