

PSAC Okanagan Area Council Meeting

September 12, 2014

Boston Pizza

Present: Susan Yaciw, Darrell-Lee McKenzie, Linda Woods, Joan Coburn, Michele Sibson, Kelly Megyesi and Maria-Luiza Romano.

Regrets: Roberta Drinkwater, Annette Hale and Shiv Reddy.

Susan Yaciw called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Review of previous minutes: June 20, 2014 Area Council meeting - correction to minutes to read Susan will contact Patrick at the PSAC Regional office about material and supplies that might be available. Motion to adopt the minutes as amended was moved, seconded, carried.

Treasurer's Report: Presented and moved by Darrell-Lee, seconded by Maria-Luiza, carried. We now have eight (8) locals affiliated to our area council. Darrell-Lee applied for and received the Agriculture Union grant for area councils.

Prior to the meeting a discussion was held between the Treasurer and the President regarding the requirement to send our bank statements to the PSAC Regional office on a monthly basis. (Email from the regional office on August 22, 2014 – *"This email is a friendly reminder to all PSAC B.C. Area Councils that they need to provide the REVP Office with (electronic) copies of their bank statements each month as well as their meeting minutes and Treasurer's Reports. It would be helpful if Treasurer's Reports reference the Area Council's 2014 budget that was previously submitted to the REVP Office and show forecast vs. actual expenses"*.) We felt that since we send our Treasurer's Reports in with our minutes that this requirement was unnecessary and asking too much of the Treasurer - sending the bank statements with the year-end audit would be adequate.

Action: Darrell-Lee to provide the regional office with copies of our monthly bank statements to date and a copy of our budget to actual figures as requested by the regional office.

Motion: To renew our membership to the Worker's History Museum in the amount of \$100 as per the 2014 budget moved by Darrell-Lee, seconded by Kelly, carried.

New Business:

BCTF (Teacher's) Strike – Darrell-Lee advised that their Agriculture local has provided a donation of \$1000 to each of the BCTF local hardship funds where their members reside.

We had a discussion on how we can stand in solidarity with the teachers. The option of taking out a newspaper ad was too costly. Some individuals have already walked the line in support of the BCTF, however, we have asked that each person make a commitment to spend time on the picket line with the teachers to show our support.

A rally in support of the BCTF was held at the office of Christy Clark in Kelowna. A discussion was held regarding this rally and the lack of notification from the PSAC regarding the rally,

therefore, no one from our Area Council attended.

Motion: to provide a donation of \$100 to the Central Okanagan Teachers Association Hardship fund moved by Kelly, seconded by Linda, carried - **Note:** due to the ratification of a contract a decision was made not to send the funds from the area council.

Local 20043 challenge the other PSAC locals with members in the Okanagan to donate to the local Teachers Hardship Fund – **Note:** due to the ratification of a contract a decision was made not to send the challenge out to other locals.

Summer Institute for Union Women – Kelly attended the Summer Institute for Union Women. She advised the program was excellent, the courses were amazing and that she has made many new connections. Kelly indicated the highlight of the weekend was seeing all the women wearing t-shirts with the logo she designed.

We discussed the funding selection process for the Summer Institute. The funding was moved from a regular subsidy to a subsidy from the education budget. Not all of those who applied for a subsidy were selected for funding based on the criteria set-up. One individual who obtained a subsidy to attend the Summer Institute did not even apply for a subsidy. Kelly requested a review of the decision but was unsuccessful in her attempts for answers or funding. We also wondered why PSAC does not have more representatives at this unique Conference. Kelly thanked the Area Council for providing her some funding to attend this conference.

Reminder: the next UDP (**Union Development Program**) course is now open for registration.

BC Federation of Labour Convention – is scheduled for November 24 to 28, 2014. Registration deadline is October 24, 2014. Susan has advised she would like to attend the convention and has applied for a subsidy from the BC PSAC and would like to request funding from the Area Council and the Okanagan Women’s committee to assist in the cost of attendance.

Motion: to provide an honorarium of \$300 for Susan Yaciw to attend the BC Federation of Labour Convention November 24 - 28, 2014 moved by Darrell–Lee, seconded by Kelly, carried.

BC Regional Council: next meeting is scheduled for September 19, 20 and 21, 2014. Susan to bring the following item forward at the meeting:

- still looking for improved communications between the regional office and members
- staff update
- need for more flexibility in the way the coordinators can spend their allocated coordinator’s budget.

Political Action: Lunch bags have been ordered for our political action tour. The bags are red with the message standing together for fairness in black. Susan has ordered 250 lunch bags and has been given authority to use her regional coordinator’s budget to purchase the lunch bags. The next step is to pick a date and see if we can get our regional representative here for the visits and to determine the availability of a bargaining team member to participate as well.

Action: Susan to contact Robert Strang regarding dates. Once a date has been narrowed down,

Susan will contact local presidents in the area and arrange a time for the tour visits. Once dates have been set with Robert, Susan will invite Harold Larson (TC bargaining team member) to participate as our bargaining team representative.

PSAC National Triennial Convention: PSAC's 17th National Triennial Convention will be held at the Québec City Convention Centre in Québec City, Québec April 26 - May 1, 2015. The deadline for registration is January 9, 2015. The Okanagan Area Council is entitled to one delegate.

Motion: to send Susan Yaciw to the National PSAC convention as the Okanagan Area Council delegate moved by Darrell-Lee, seconded by Linda, carried.

Alternates to the PSAC convention were elected as follows:

- First – Maria Luiza
- Second – Linda Woods
- Third – Kelly Megyesi

The Winnipeg Area Council has forwarded a number of resolutions to our Area Council for review and possible submission to the Convention. Many of them relate to the Women's and Human Rights, therefore, a copy was also provided to the Regional Women's Committee Chair.

Action: Susan to send a copy of all resolutions via email to the Area Council members for review. Based on a consensus from the group a number of the resolutions may then be forwarded to the convention under the Okanagan Area Council Name. The deadline for submission of resolutions is October 27, 2014.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20

Next meeting – to be determined