

**PSAC Okanagan Area Council**  
**January 16, 2016**  
**Kelowna, BC**

**Present:**

Linda Woods	UNE 20140
Kelly Megyesi	CEIU 20915
Susan Yaciw	UTE 20003
Maria-Luiza Romano	AGR 20027
Darrell-Lee McKenzie	AGR 20043
Michele Sibson,	UNE 20088
Shiv Reddy	UTE 20026
Joan Coburn	CEIU 20915
Joanne Hay	UPSE 20095
Joy Harrison	APSAR
Robert Strang	PSAC REP

**Regrets:**

Annette Hale	USGE 20153
Carolyn McGillivray	CIU20045



**Chair**

Susan Yaciw

**Minutes**

Previous minutes reviewed. Correction – Michele Sibson local.

**Communication**

Susan reported out on her task of meeting with Bob about communication concerns within BC PSAC, This item was discussed at the last regional council meeting and discussed in detail. We are not alone as this was felt throughout BC and there seems to be a huge disconnect. Bob talked about this being an ongoing problem that they need to work on. Susan hopes that things will improve and we'll have to wait and see.

Robert reiterated his commitment to helping our area and is happy to try and help us as much as possible. The Veterans affair event held in the Okanagan was referred to as an example of poor communication and Robert tried behind the scenes to try and resolve overlaps when that situation came up.

Kelly talked about Bob's first term and how we had started to work with staff reps to improve communication. She felt that it was a good start and maybe that format could be revisited. Joanne said in her role she comes across this a lot and sited trying to get assistance from PSAC in Winnipeg.

Maria-Luiza talked about all emails being channelled through Robert but Darrell-Lee and Susan felt that some issues would go directly to Bob. Susan also mentioned that sending to Kristin is always a good bet.

All were aware that staffing levels play (ed) an important part. The Okanagan was glad that it is being looked at and recommitted to drawing it to the RVP or regional council attention when required.

### **BC Health & Safety Conference**

Susan believes that Carolyn was given the information on selection. Deferred to next meeting

### **Regional Council**

Conference call will be in February with an in person April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016. PSAC staff reps to be involved in that meeting as well.

Area Council national conference call was held December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Susan gave an overview of the key messages.

- optimistic but guarded
- staying away from negotiating in the media
- sick leave remains off the table
- a reminder that the Liberal government put us on strike in 2001, 2004 and were responsible for downsizing and a wage freeze
- Scott Brison new treasury board president  
[<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/scott-brison-ottawa-morning-treasury-board-1.3311933>]

### **Upcoming Dates**

- PSAC-BC is planning a Racially Visible Conference in the Spring of 2016 in Vancouver!
- PSAC BC Women's Conference – Fall 2016 Lower Mainland
- National Health & Safety Conference November 18 - 21, 2016 Montreal
- BC Federation of Labour Convention November 21 - 25 2016 Vancouver
- BC Regional Conference June 16 – 18, 2017 Vancouver

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Prepared by Darrell-Lee. Closing balance as at December 31<sup>st</sup> 2015 \$ 4331.54.  
Report moved [m] Darrell-Lee/seconded Michele /carried [c]

Discussion on dues collection for our area council. At this time due to sufficient funding we will temporarily suspend the collection of dues. All were in favour.

Voting will remain status quo as 1 per local (no current locals exceed 500)

Darrell-Lee presented the 2016 budget. It is an aggressive budget which commits a large portion to political action. Budget moved [m] Darrell-Lee/seconded Susan /carried [c]

### **Political Action**

Maria-Luiza, Linda, Susan, & Carolyn will be attending the PSAC BC Area Council and Political Action Committee Summit at the end of January. Will be great to have a good voice from the Okanagan. Discussion about priorities and the group attending will be

tasked with developing ideas.

Darrell-Lee talked about last year's lunch bag action and that most of the locals are more receptive to lunch time activities, meet & greet.

### **PSAC Rep Corner**

Robert talked about letting our MP know who we are not just at election time. Establishing rapport. Robert offered full support. The group had an in-depth discussion. Everyone was in support of moving forward with the MP visits. Robert distributed a handout for 2016 MP visits – Framework for Discussions. Robert will send us this document electronically so that it can be attached to the minutes. He stressed the importance of engaging in conversation with our MP's. Robert will provide the Area council with a list of current Lobby Kits so that we have speaking notes when meeting with our MP's and reminded that it is a good idea to leave behind a kit for the MP outlining our issues. MP visits will continue to be the focus. Everyone was in support of moving forward with the MP visits.

The Area Council felt that it would be a good idea to start out visiting the South Okanagan MP as he was a NDP MP and members may feel more comfortable starting out by visiting a labour friendly MP. Next we will meet with the new Liberal MP in the Kelowna Area and branch out from there. No MP visits will take place until after the Area Council Summit at the end of January. Those attending the Area Council Political Action summit agreed to work on a plan and arrangements will be made following the Summit.

Robert reported that there has been a surge of interest from new members. Scheduled training is TUB – MAR 5/6, 2016 (Penticton or Kelowna) and a local officer course in Kamloops – APR 16/17, 2016. KAMLOOPS. Early sign-up is a good idea due to demand.

Kelly suggested that the area council be given a list of anyone attending training in the Okanagan so that we can follow-up with a personal invitation to attend next area council meetings. Robert/Susan to check into logistics

### **PSAC Okanagan Area Council Elections**

Robert Strang led the elections. All were acclaimed as follows...

Susan Yaciw – President  
Shiv Reddy – Vice President  
Maria-Luiza Romano – Treasurer  
Michele Sibson – Secretary

Congratulations & thank you!

Motion made to transfer the Area council bank account from the Credit Union in Penticton to one in Vernon. Add the new Treasurer, Maria-Luiza, Susan Yaciw, President and another individual from the Vernon Agriculture local as signing officers on the account.

**Next Meeting**

Tentative – February 27, 2016 Kelowna - 10:00 am

When you destroy unions there will be no standard at all, nobody left to negotiate decent jobs for the middle class." ~ Sen. Bernie

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