

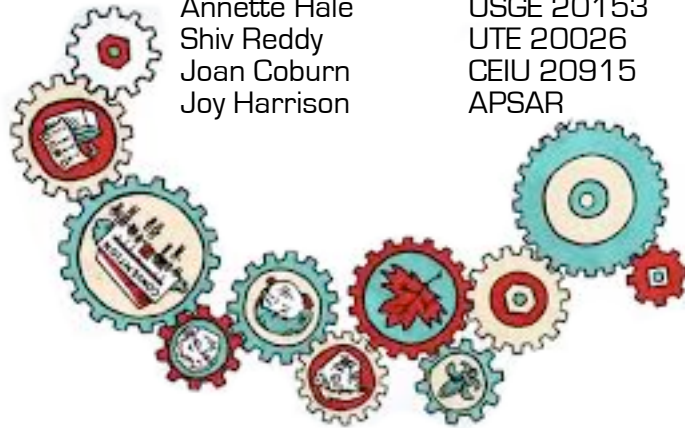
**PSAC Okanagan Area Council  
November 21, 2015  
Penticton, BC**

**Present:**

Linda Woods	UNE 20140
Kelly Megyesi	CEIU 20915
Susan Yaciw	UTE 20003
Carolyn McGillivray	CIU20045
Maria-Luiza Romano	AGR 20027
Darrell-Lee McKenzie	AGR 20043
Michele Sibson,	UNE 20008
Rebecca Davis	CIU20045
Debra Dry	CEIU 20972
Robert Strang	PSAC REP

**Regrets:**

Annette Hale	USGE 20153
Shiv Reddy	UTE 20026
Joan Coburn	CEIU 20915
Joy Harrison	APSAR



**Chair**

Susan Yaciw

**Minutes**

Previous minutes reviewed. Correction – Grace McIver should only appear once.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Prepared by Darrell-Lee. Closing balance as at October 31<sup>st</sup> 2015 \$ 4934.79.  
Report moved [m] Darrell-Lee/seconded Linda /carried [c]

Membership for workers history - <http://workershistorymuseum.ca>. Discussed the interesting and great work they are doing. Darrell-Lee **motion** for 1 year membership \$100.  
[m] Darrell-Lee [s] Susan [c]

Another **motion** to order museum calendars for distribution to area council participants, 10 calendars for \$105 to be ordered..

[m] Darrell-Lee [s] Maria-Luiza [c]

Darrell-Lee talked about her role as the treasurer. She has made the decision to not run in the upcoming January elections. She has done the job for 23 years and feels it is time to pass on. Thank you Darrell-Lee for all your work!

**Old Business**

Regina thanked PSAC Okanagan on facebook for their get well gift.

Susan has not actioned the conference call with Bob. Group agreed that in-person would be better. Susan will meet with Bob at next BC Regional Council meetings – November 2015.

**Elections/ Political Action**

PSAC Federal Elections Feedback for Area Council information sheet presented by Robert. The group discussed the work and were able to give direct feedback to Robert to take back to BC PSAC. Susan felt that there was too much expected from our group. Our council is spread out and requests seemed pushy. The political arm needs more support and members need to be more connected. Carolyn felt the money came too late. There was overlap of jobs and there were communication issues with a disconnect between political action committee and roll out. It was felt that it could have been more strategic. Consistency of union vision is needed.

Kelly mentioned that all area councils are activists and most were involved in the election in some way. It is difficult to volunteer for political parties and also carry out extra PSAC duties at the same time. Kelly reminded the group that Jody Wilson-Raybould was invited to speak at the PSAC BC Women's Conference. She was unable to attend but her sister Kory Wilson was one of our featured speakers - <http://psacbc.com/report-2013-bc-regional-womens-conference>

Linda told the group that Stat Canada is currently doing a survey about the election voting patterns. The group asked Robert to see if we can access the results down the road.

Robert talked about letting our MP know who we are not just at election time. Establishing rapport. Discussion turned to elections results and how we were hopeful that service would be restored to better levels. Things like staffing actions, veterans, in-person CRA offices, etc.

Deborah talked about the Metro Vancouver Alliance and broad based community election assembly. They concentrated on 4 issues – transit, poverty, housing, & social isolation.

### **Health & Safety Conference**

Susan was on the organizing committee and the conference went well. There was a wellness component, which many were eager to take. Discussion on low numbers of acceptance from our area. There were many applications but only 5 selected. We realize that it is budgetary but the group felt that once in awhile conferences should be held in our area so that we can have an opportunity to have more attend. Also the group felt that we should be working with PSAC to try and see if we can have more seats for our area. **Action:** Susan to contact Deb Seaboyer and get some information. We will be asking for last 2 years facts and figures, percentage of allocation to our area, \$'s, etc. Suggestion made that Susan follow up with Patrick as well as he may have information to contribute. To be reviewed at our next meeting.

Maria-Luiza talked about her problems with the online application and Robert made note of concerns heard.

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

Elections will be held in January 2016. The group was asked to think about who would be filling those positions. Susan indicated that she will not be running for future positions. It was a tough year and a lot of work. She will be retiring in 2017 so it is time to have others assume the positions. Thank you Susan for all your work!

### **Training**

Robert reported that there has been a surge of interest from new members. Scheduled training is TUB - Feb 20/21, 2016 (Penticton or Kelowna) and a local officer course in Kamloops - tentatively April 23/24, 2016.

Suggestions for other training include H&S Wellness training, Bullying training, Human Rights courses, Women at Work, etc.

### **Next Meeting**

January 16, 2016 – AGM Kelowna – venue to be advised (Linda and Susan to coordinate)  
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**"You can't get near what should be, not even close, unless you build and use power, unless you manipulate that power so that you can slog through the mud of the world as it is, unless you are willing to push and tug the teachers and mayors and pols and cops and yourself and your own institution in the direction of what ought to be."**

Michael Gecan, Going Public