

AGM

PSAC Vancouver Island Area Council

January 25, 2014

Held at: ABC Restaurant, Nanaimo BC – 10:30 am to 12:20 pm

Attendees: Tom Hopkins VEW 20147, Sharon VanderDonck CEIU 20963, Cheryl Hayes CEIU 20963, Peter Midgley UEW 20090, Marcelo Lazaro UNDE 21016, Mark Miller UNDE UP/BC, Bob Jackson PSAC R/O, Lance Jesson UNDE 21016, Bryan Recalma, Cindy Little UTE 20028, Bert Farwell UCTE 20220, Dave Jackson PSAC R/O, Richard May VEW 20090, Christine Walker CEIU 20947 and Angela Marafon UTE 20029.

1) Welcome and introductions.

Tom – requested the meeting agenda be accepted. Sharon seconded. Agenda item added - Christine wanted to add a motion regarding monies from the defunct Nanaimo Area Council. All in favour.

2) Minutes from previous meeting and conference call

Minutes from previous meeting December 7/13 were reviewed. Tom motioned to accept the minutes – Brian seconded. No questions – all in favour.

Tom motioned to accept the minutes from Conference Call December 8/13 – Sharon seconded – all in favour.

3) Financial Report for 2013 and Budget for 2014

Review of the finances statement from 2013. Tom asked Bob about the annual funding allocation for Area Councils that was received in December 2013 in comparison with other years when the area council allocation would be received in the Spring of the year. Bob explained that all the area councils did not send in their annual financial statements and budgets until late in the fall to the RO therefore the allocation was delayed. There are 8 area councils.

Christine made suggestion to adopt a different way of handling the allocation of funds by giving each area council a set of guidelines. Bring area council executive in for a refresher that will allow a plan for Spring.

Cheryl questioned why area councils that are timely in sending in their financial statements and budgets must wait for those area councils that are not. Bob states that although they would wait until all financials/budgets are in, they will allot monies as required by the area council.

Christine asked if something special comes up unforeseen, can the area council request funds. Bob stated area councils can ask. For example funds can be requested through National for a National campaign.

Sharon moved that the financial report for 2013 be accepted. Christine seconded. All in favour.

2014 Budget

Budget for 2014 was reviewed. Frank asked about the cost. 50 cents per member per year.

Sharon moved the budget be accepted – Tom seconded – all in favour.

4) Tom – Nanaimo Area Council Funds

Bob – The Nanaimo Area Council was defunct around 2008 and the funds were not dealt with at that time. Bob said they tried to get the area council closed and locked down. Credit Union has 3 signatories on the account, 2/3 have retired. Repeated attempts to contact them but have been unable to get a response. This past week one of the signatories on the account refused to cooperate. Credit Union prevents others from having access to the account. Credit Union has now advised that they are dealing with signatories only and not with PSAC. The PSAC National office is going the legal route to get the money back in PSAC hands. There will be a change to how the area councils do business in the future including having a position of a Chief Finance officer.

Christine withdrew her motion she was going to present as the issue is now outside of our ability.

Tom commented that originally dues came from locals affiliated with our NVI area council and should be returned to the NVI area council.

5) President's Report – Tom

CLC fight for Fairness – ensure we are together to fight Harper Gov't "We are all Affected Campaign".

BC Fed – Regional Convention in Nanaimo. Fought hard in provincial election and was not successful.

Bill 377 – Bob to add

Campbell River and District area Labour Council – Nanaimo and District area Labour Council work together well.

Richard – Re: BBQ for NVI Area Council – A thank you goes out to those who organized the BBQ. We want to expand and next time to communicate better to get more involvement.

Tom involved in Treasury Board Bargaining Conference - must be unity between tables

Federal election 2015

Need to talk about ideas on activities for our area council

Thank you to all for your support as president of the NVI Area Council

6) Collective Bargaining

Dave Jackson Report – PSAC Education – hard to attend courses in Nanaimo – Courtenay and Victoria courses will be dropped if not enough interest. Message is “don’t use – we’ll lose”.

7) Bob Jackson Report

PSAC – BC convention April 25-27 – Delegates include Tom and Bert. Must develop a plan to get rid of Harper

Education – to confirm what Dave stated, there will be education cancellations if the courses are not attended.

Staff at RUO – much juggling and competitions – there is a new office and invited members to drop in. The facilities are better and there is additional office space for those coming down for work.

Regional council Meeting – The last meeting before convention – Robyn Benson was there. Resolutions before convention. Get committees together to deal with resolutions. In the last convention – 2011 – a convention committee was created to ensure what, how, when – collaborative approach for conventions and is working well. Some positions must be replaced i.e. Youth Rep is getting too old, and retires and WFA, etc.

Bob stated he will be seeking his position again and will let everyone know of his intentions.

Bargaining Conference Feb 14/14. PSAC is bringing in people to one national conference (no regional conferences) due to time. There will be 32 people from BC from components and some equity seats as well.

Go forward – Protect Collective agreements. Sick leave on the table. Robyn Benson, PSAC president stated our collective agreements are “NOT FOR SALE” but this fight won’t be easy. One strategy is to maybe hold out till we see where the gov’t is going in 2015 and position ourselves (when politicians are campaigning).

BC Federal of Labour convention will be in the fall – November

Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) Convention in the Spring

CLC District Labour Councils are active in political action

2014 – Municipal elections – talk to Labour friendly candidates

Eight Veteran’s office closures.

Questions from the floor:

Mark Miller – 1. Delay collective negotiation (800 demands) until 2015. Comment that to wait until then might cost us. 2. Pension funds – short fall – strike fund use

- A. 1. Decision on collective bargaining made at conference – many unknowns out there. Be prepared for Sept 2015 or for something prior if that changes. Let the Conference control the strategy. 2. No re-allocation of strike funds. Board of directors will be looking at the strike funds and its future. Not to be allocated to cover other costs re: pension funds

Member beside Tom – Our involvement in the municipal elections.

- A. Information will be coming from RUO re: Labour friendly candidates – RUO will ask candidates to allow union to get their name out there first. Some area councils don't endorse candidates but Christine said some have candidate forums at Labour Councils.

Christine – Strike Fund

- A. Bob doesn't have a figure but the fund is large and will get back to us if we want. Having \$'s sends message to federal government that Union supports its members.

Marcelo – Information on Bill 377. Private members bill.

- A. This bill has effect on the ability to organize and Unions in general – it may be withdrawn. Government may take portions out of the bill to include public unions. Don't know for certain but that's the word. Legislation in fall – probably another omnibus bill to be introduced.

8) Elections – Run by Dave Jackson

President – Call for nominations. Christine nominated Tom Hopkins – Bryan seconded. No other nominations. Acclaimed.

Vice President – Call for nominations. Tom nominated Richard May – Sharon seconded. No other nominations. Acclaimed.

Secretary – Call for nominations. Tom nominated Cheryl Hayes – Sharon seconded. No other nominations. Acclaimed.

Treasurer – Call for nominations. Tom nominated Sharon – Christine seconded. No other nominations. Acclaimed.

All those elected repeated and took the oath of office.

9) Tom will have a conference call to determine next meeting. Possibly in April or May and possibly in Courtenay. Tom thanked everyone for attending on their Saturday. Suggestion was to set years meeting dates in advance. This will be done after consultation with the executive.

Meeting adjourned – 12:20 pm.

Cheryl Hayes

Secretary – PSAC NVI Area Council