

Regional Women's Committee (RWC) Meeting

05Nov2013

Attendees:

Cheryl Oenema (chair)
Tracy Shudo.
Kelly Sidhu (treasurer)
Jessica Kerek (secretary)
Crystal Warner
Jen Horsley
Angela Marafan
Sargy Cheema
Jennifer Chieh-Ho (phone)
Deanna Kimball (PSAC Staff)

Regrets: Kelly Megyesi

Agenda:

1. Previous Minutes
2. Treasurer's report
3. Old business:
 - draft minutes to the website
 - clothing drive
 - Kelly's report
 - Terms of Reference
4. Dec. 6th update re: funding
5. BC Regional Conference
6. Logo for the RWC
7. Funding requests
8. AGM date
9. Other business
10. Round table

18:05 meeting commenced

Jen moved (m) adoption of the previous minutes. Cheryl seconded (s). Will email to pass the minutes as none of the current attendees were present at the previous meeting

Angela asks if the action items from the previous minutes have all been completed

-Dec. 6th has been completed. Resolutions have not been completed. The logo action item has been completed. The September march was not completed due to inclement weather

Treasurer's report: of September 30th, 2013 there is \$4,508.03 in the chequing and savings account

-Kelly will be changing the system for tracking as the current system does not work and will send the electronic copy to Cheryl

-the balance will change as of today as there are a few cheques which need to be written

Crystal asks who funds the RWC?

Cheryl responds that the REVP's office from the Vancouver Regional Office pays out what is distributed from National

-the PSAC and RWC are also looking at standardizing financial reporting

Draft minutes to websites – Jessica will be forwarding them to Deanna

-minutes remain in draft format until they are passed at the next meeting

-the previous REVP reviewed all of the minutes. The current one does not

Clothing drive – the members were unable to follow up with respect to locations for donations so the clothing drive location will be transferred to the Dec. 6th event

Kelly's report from her conference is as follows:

CEIU Western Women's Conference: October 5-6, 2013

Venue: Delta Grand Okanagan Resort and Conference centre

Mental Health workshop provided by Ashley Sherbino

Exercise 1: Life Events/thoughts/feelings/physical feelings and behaviour

2 situational scenarios about depression and anxiety – that always link to fear

Ashley recommends "Brene Brown from Ted Talks" .

Exercise 2: "Recognising when something is not my responsibility".

www.heretohelp.ca Kelowna: cmhc.bc.ca Ashley 1-250 861-3644

Resolution writing workshop provided by Kathy Sand

Handouts and overview of structure were provided.

Melanie Rose Kipling (Stand - up Comedian for Mental Health)

Melanie shared her very personal life experience around depression and mental health.

*Too many Canadians, including PSAC members, suffer from mental health issues. Often they suffer alone without adequate treatment.

*Mental illness affects us all in our homes, in our communities, in our workplaces.

*Employers at all levels have a responsibility to ensure that their workplaces do not contribute to mental illness

Sunday:

Kathy Sand continued Resolutions Workshop and discussion.

Kelly Sidhu provided one resolution:

Where As the extended medical benefits do not cover costs or medication prescribed in the form of IUD/and or COIL that alleviate medical conditions for women.

Where As birth control will reduce the number of unintended pregnancies that lead to financial and stressful complications.

Where As according to the medical journal published by the University of Ottawa updated September 24, 2013, 40% of all pregnancies in Canada are un-planned. (med.uottawa.ca)

Be it resolved that PSAC be directed to advocate covering the costs towards coil and or IUD birth control prescribed by a General Practitioner or physician.

Dianne Mitchel - updates:

Dec 6th – nominations for National VP President

CEIU convention delegates

Feb 12 - all voting regarding NVP's and delegates.

March 4 deadline for return of ballots for election of delegates.
March 14, deadline for convention resolutions.
Delegates results by March 28
Convention has 4 committees and deadlines for nominations:
Finance – April 25-28
PSAC – April 27-28
By-laws – May 9-12
General – May 11-12
CEIU Convention September 12 to 16, 2014
Resolution submission deadline is March 14, 2014.
PSAC Union Development Program: Deadline to apply is November 5th, 2013.
CEIU Tri-annual conference September 2016
Regional union/management meeting regarding “Pay in Arrears” January 2014.
Hardship on members.
27000 passport members will be transferred to CEIU
Split between Service Canada and IRB
Bill 377 – Passed by Parliament. This is the bill that requires detailed financial reporting from locals. This bill process is on pause right now.

Performance Management:

June 25th, 2013 sick day scandal in Maclains magazine

Diane Mitchel wrote a letter to the editor

Recommendations from members for Convention:

*Reduce the number of NVP's.

*Eliminate the Regional Women's Rep.

*The number of positions was initially based on membership (which since declined significantly).

*Existing Structure was based on 24,000 members

*Currently have 16,400 members and this number will decline by another 400 by convention.

Overall this Conference was a very positive experience.

Statistics Canada's new report, [Understanding public-private sector differences in work absences](#), confirms that comparing sick leave in the private versus public sector is like comparing apples and oranges.

The report's key finding: the public sector employs more women and has an older workforce. Once age, gender and unionization rates are considered, the gap in the public versus private sector is virtually eliminated, amounting to a difference of less than a day per year.

The report also demonstrates that women are far more likely to be absent from work due to illness, disability and family responsibilities. Women continue to bear the bulk of child rearing and family care in Canada. Older workers are also absent more days than younger workers, particularly for reasons of illness or disability.

This report serves to provide context to the numbers released by Treasury Board during Public Service Week last spring on absenteeism in the public service.

Crystal attended the conference as well. Both Kelly and Crystal note that they were not provided the agenda in advance.

-Crystal's resolution made it to National while Kelly's did not. The rationale for this has been requested but not yet provided

- Crystal noted that there was a mental health workshop yet it did not provide the tools for combatting mental health issues
- both note that there was a lack of information at the conference as well as a lack of transparency

Terms of Reference – need to be passed at the AGM

- should there be a fixed date for the AGM? Yes
- the report year is the same as the calendar year (Jan-Dec)
- will equal opportunity funding be included? Unsure at this point. This may be included on other committee terms of reference
- Reg. 7 request for funding – these guidelines would assist in standardizing funding requests from members to the RWC
- draft terms of reference will be presented at the AGM

Dec. 6th – how much money is in the budget for this event? \$600

- Jennifer (m) motion for up to \$300 for the Dec. 6th event. Sargy (s). All in favour. The motion is carried
- Tracy asks what the total budget for the Dec. 6th event is.
- Jennifer states it has not been finalized yet. Performers = approx. \$200. Jennifer has received approx. \$1000 from a combination of other committees and locals to date.
- Jennifer thanks Sargy for looking after the coffee for this event, and Angela for arranging flowers.
- Tracy asks about sound equipment. It may be possible that Regina (Vancouver RO) could assist
- Tracy notes that we should try to use the new tent for coverage as it has the new logo
- If another photographer is needed, Kelly knows of one and will pass the information to Jennifer

PSAC BC Regional Convention – the deadline for submitting resolutions and delegate names is Friday, Jan. 24th.

- delegates will be elected at the BC Regional Convention for the PSAC Tri-Annual Convention in 2015
- BC Regional bylaws will be followed and includes the confirmation of delegates

In order to accommodate the Jan. 24th deadline, the next meeting (and RWC AGM) will be Jan. 15th, 2014

With respect to the RWC logo – there are currently two templates. Members would like to inquire if specific ideas may be submitted for approval

- only two colours should be used in the logo. It was agreed to be white/black and purple for printing costs and computer resolution as well as visual impairment issues

Motions for money – National Equity Conference

- Tracy provides information regarding a hospitality suite for the conference
- \$348 for one day of a hospitality suite
- the parlour room is available and allows food and drink
- it would cost a total of \$4508 for one week
- the Human Rights Committee has already approved to cover two nights
- all equity group members from the BC Region would be welcome

Tracy (m) for \$348 to cover one night of a hospitality suite. Jennifer (s). Angela (m) to amend to motion to “up to \$350”. Jen (s).

Kelly asks if we really need the room for three nights and what are the parameters? With respect to the scent-free policy, what about second-hand smoke? Privacy/confidentiality? Food & drink?

Tracy responds that if there are members with chemical sensitivity members will be mindful and not smoke before they enter, or they can wash up in one of the other rooms so the smell of smoke is reduced. Everything discussed in the room will be kept confidential.

Jen states that it is a good idea because members meet very few people at large conferences such as this. While she may not go all three nights, she would definitely go if there was a room available for at least one night.

Crystal asks what line item from the budget the funding would be drawn from? Instead of spending money on a hospitality suite, would we prefer to send another observer to the conference?

Sargy says that it will be good for networking and members at these events are respectful of others.

Angela agrees with the previous statements made. Members can use this as a target room or focus room. However, we should be careful with parameters so as not to be too restrictive.

Deanna reiterates that two nights have already been passed by another committee. Can we cancel the room if we find it has not been used as much as we hope?

Tracy – yes, as long as we give 24 hours notice

Sargy says if it's not needed, then we'll cancel for the third night.

All in favour. The motion is carried

CLC Winter School – how do we want requests to be submitted?

-Angela notes that there are multiple avenues to seek funding such as:

- Vancouver Area Council
- component
- regional councils
- Vancouver RWC

We would request that a detailed statement be sent in outlining which avenues the member has requested funding from and in what amount, as well as which course the member wants to take. A brief overview of the member's involvement in the committee and what they plan to give back as a result of being approved for funding should also accompany the request.

Round table – Jennifer would like to invite all women to attend the Dec. 6th event

19:50 meeting adjourned